

Blue Glow Agave

Agave 'Blue Glow'

Size:

Up to 1-2' tall x 2-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

25-30 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Once after 10-15 years

General: Agave Blue Glow has a seductive edging that glows red, orange and yellow against the green-blue skin of the leaves. It is a slow-growing beautiful smaller Agave with solitary rosettes. This is a hybrid between *Agave attenuata* and *Agave ocahui* created by Kelly Griffin.

Designer: Great as an accent plant, in containers, or in groups. It is especially nice where back lighting can light up the red and yellow margin.

Maintenance: Low. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Twin-Flowered Agave

Agave geminiflora

Size:

2-3' tall x 3-4' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Sun, reflected heat, part to full shade

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Once after 10-15 years

General: This agave has unarmed, narrow, dark green leaves that can be numbered into the hundreds. It does not generally produce offsets, also known as “pups”. This agave will send up a 15- 20' flower spike at the end of its life, which is estimated at 10 to 15 years.

Designer: Makes a great accent plant, with near-perfect symmetrical form. The leaves produce small quantities of curly, white hairs along the leaf margin, further adding to its architectural form and beauty. *Agave geminiflora* also performs well in containers.

Maintenance: Low. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Jaws Agave

Agave gentryi 'Jaws'

Size:

Up to 3-4' tall x 4-6' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to shade

Hardiness:

5 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Infrequently, every 10-15 years

General: This is one tough Agave! *Agave gentryi* is a medium-sized, rosette-forming succulent with glossy apple green leaves. This solitary growing plant has strong bud imprints and large teeth along the leaf margin with the leaves folding together distinctively to resemble a mouth full of teeth, hence the name 'Jaws'. This is one of the most cold tolerant of the medium to large agave.

Designer: A true accent or specimen plant, this plant should be put on display in the garden. Soften its appearance with fleshy perennials like Purple Heart (*Tradescantia pallida*) or Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys* 'prostratum' or *Teucrium aroanium*).

Maintenance: Low. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Tiger Aloe

Aloe saponaria

Size:

1' tall x 2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Partial sun or shade

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Early Spring – Early Summer

General: The fleshy lance shaped leaves of this aloe are dotted with white spots and develop a beautiful purple hue when weather cools, which accents the white spots even more. Offsets, or “pups,” from the base will fill space and create dense clusters of these statuesque succulents. Flowers appear early spring and bloom for a couple of months **on 3' stalks, and** range in color from red-pink to orange.

Designer: Provides nice texture in the landscape. Plant to create a tropical effect or use in pots. Pups can be allowed to grow and mass or be removed to show off this plants stunning star-shaped form.

Maintenance: Remove spent stalks after flowering is complete. Pups are easily removed by hand and may be immediately replanted. They can be allowed to sit outside of soil for weeks or even months prior to replanting, but will perform better if immediately replanted. Cold-damaged plants recover fully, and if killed off by severe cold, will usually come back from underground pups.

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Blue Grama Grass

Bouteloua gracilis

Size:

2' tall x 2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

-30 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Spring – Summer

General: Blue Grama Grass is a North American native with fine textured, light green foliage. Distinctive “comb-like” seed heads attach to the stems at right angles and dance above the foliage in late spring through summer. The green blades dry to a tan color in winter months.

Designer: Use in mass to draw attention to its’ playful nature and dramatic seasonal changes. Place amongst rocks to soften hard textures and add additional interest. A natural choice for meadow gardens.

Maintenance: Low. Cut back in late winter or early spring to remove spent flower spikes and dormant foliage. Provide ample irrigation in summer months to maintain a lush green appearance.

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Woolly Butterfly Bush

Buddleja marrubifolia

Size:

5' tall x 5' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun or light shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Intermittent throughout the year, heaviest in Spring and Summer

General: The soft, silvery foliage has a bluish hue and helps liven up winter landscapes. Orange marble-sized flowers can be produced almost year round with the heaviest flowering occurring in spring and summer. This plant has a remarkable ability to attract butterflies into the landscape.

Designer: Combine this rounded evergreen shrub with green leafed plants for an interesting contrast. Great as a backdrop against walls, or well positioned near patios, windows and entryways to take full advantage of its butterfly-magnet quality.

Maintenance: Grows to 5 feet tall with a dense form requiring little maintenance if given room to grow.

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Trumpet Creeper

Campsis radicans

Size:

15-25' tall x 6-12' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Spring – October

General: *Campsis radicans* is a deciduous, woody, clinging vine with a 6-month show of masses of trumpet-like flowers in a variety of shades of red, orange or yellow. The flowers attract butterflies, bees, birds, and hummingbirds with their nectar. Large seed pods reminiscent of small bananas follow flowers and persist on the vine until they dry and split. Spent flowers fall off, creating some litter.

Designer: Trumpet Creeper should be used on a trellis or trained to climb. Creates particular interest on the lengthy and stark trunks of palm trees. *Campsis x tagliabuana* 'Madam Galen' has larger, redder flowers

Maintenance: Low. Prune as needed if growth hangs or occurs where not desired. Remove seed pods before they split and release seeds to prevent volunteer seedlings. Can be pruned hard in winter if desired, or one can wait to see where new growth will occur.

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Silver Falls Dichondra

Dichondra argentea 'Silver Falls'

Size:

Spreading groundcover

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to part sun

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

None

General: Silver Falls Dichondra creates a stunning effect with minimal water use. Spreading vigorously, it will spill over rocks, planter walls, and other obstacles to soften and blend landscape with hardscape. Silver Falls sports fan-shaped silver foliage on silver stems, and an incredibly soft texture. Dies back partially in winter.

Designer: Use near boulders to accentuate cascading growth pattern, or spilling from a container or raised bed. Works especially well in pots with succulents because of its low water needs and the softening effect of its texture. Showcases especially well against dark boulders or spilling over the edge of dark pots.

Maintenance: Trim to size in the spring. If unwanted, remove new plants that may sprout. Can grow into other plants and should be cut back before or shortly after it does so.

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Emerald Falls Dichondra

Dichondra micrantha 'Emerald Falls'

Size:

Spreading ground cover

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

None

General: Dichondra is a low growing groundcover that creates a woodland look. Spreading vigorously, it will spill over rocks, planter walls, and other obstacles to soften and blend landscape with hardscape. Emerald Falls Dichondra boasts a fresh green color and soft texture.

Designer: This was a very popular ground cover in southern California in the 1950s and 1960s and used as a grass substitute for lawns. It is still used for the same reason. Use near boulders to accentuate cascading growth pattern, or spilling from a raised bed. It is one of the best plants for use between stepping stones or to grow in the joints of a flagstone patio

Maintenance: Trim to size in the spring. If unwanted, remove new plants that may sprout. Can grow into other plants and should be cut back before or shortly after it does so.

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Sky Flower

Duranta erecta

Size:

10' – 15' tall x 10' – 15' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer – Fall

General: This large tree-like shrub flowers Summer through Fall with hanging clusters of dime-sized bluish-purple blooms delicately laced with white edging. The flower show is often stunning. The growth habit is strongly upright yet weeping on the periphery. The yellow fruit is poisonous to humans.

Designer: Best used as screen or background planting. The rich green leaves serve well as a contrast against other foliage colors.

Maintenance: May be developed into a single or multi stemmed patio tree. Do not shear. Once the permanent structure has been determined, keep all suckers cleanly removed. Spent flower stalks are persistent and can be pruned off if desired. Sky Flower will appear lusher and flower heavily if watered and fertilized on a regular basis. Slightly cold sensitive, younger plants may be killed by a severe frost; however, established plants will grow back quickly if they freeze to the ground.

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Gopher Spurge

Euphorbia rigida

Size:

2-3' tall x 4' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun or light shade

Hardiness:

5 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Winter – early Spring

General: Gopher Spurge is a plant that looks good all year 'round. In late winter and early spring chartreuse flowers are borne above bluish foliage, providing a colorful contrast that is especially stunning when lit by sunlight. Leaves are arranged in a beautiful double-helix pattern around individual stems, providing strong architectural form up close. With each successive year of growth, more stems (and flowers) are produced.

Designer: Looks good planted among boulders or accent plants for a softening effect. Its form and color are so distinctive, that it provides interest and contrast in any garden.

Maintenance: Remove old stems after stem begins dropping leaves from the base all the way down to the point of rosette, where new stems begin to emerge. Be careful not to get the milky sap on skin, as it can irritate.

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