Nova Foxtail Agave

Agave attenuata 'Nova'



Nova Foxtail Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 4 feet

Flower Height: 10 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: syn. Blue Boy Agave, Boutin Blue, Fox Tail Agave

Description:

An appealing variety producing a rosette of wide, powder blue foliage on smooth gray stems that can reach 4 feet; infrequent flower stalks curve toward the ground, then arch back upward, resembling a fox's tail; a great accent planting

Ornamental Features

Nova Foxtail Agave features bold spikes of chartreuse cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in late winter. It has powder blue evergreen foliage. The succulent sword-like leaves remain powder blue throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Nova Foxtail Agave is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its strikingly bold and coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced landscape composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering



Nova Foxtail Agave in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Nova Foxtail Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Nova Foxtail Agave will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity extending to 10 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Nova Foxtail Agave makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.