East Bay Nursery

King of the Agaves

Agave ferdinandi-regis



King of the Agaves
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 15 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: King Ferdinand's Agave, syn. Agave nickelsiae

Description:

A symmetrical variety presenting tight fitting blue-green leaves that are edged and striped in white, with black terminal spines; margins are spineless; reddish-purple flowers when rosette matures; produces no offsets, so replace after flowering

Ornamental Features

King of the Agaves features bold spikes of yellow pincushion flowers with plum purple overtones and dark red streaks rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has attractive bluish-green foliage with white stripes and tinges of gray. The small succulent pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

King of the Agaves is a dense 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;

- Spiny

King of the Agaves is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

King of the Agaves will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 15 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs.

King of the Agaves 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. 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.