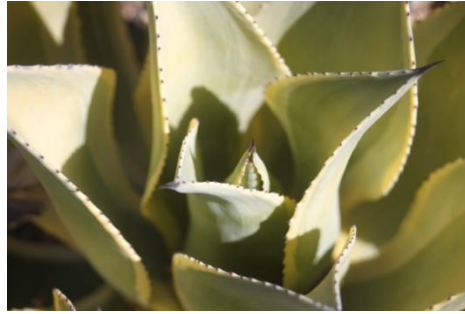


## Multicolor Agave

***Agave celsii*** J.Hooker; *A. botteri*, *A. bouchei*, *A. haseloffii*, *A. micracantha*, *A. mitis*

**Family:** Acanthaceae /Agavaceae

**Basic Description:** It is a medium to large-sized agave growing 2-3' in a clumping growth pattern. It has a soft terminal spine and minute backward curving teeth that may not be visible. Color varies from light apple green to a glaucous (waxy blue-gray) depending on the variant.



Only three specimens in Center Gardens. They are located in Specimen Beds on South Side of Center. Bed nearest the Center.

Will add bloom photos when available.

**Bloom & Fruit Description:** Blooms yellow-green with tinges of red, purple or lavender on the interior. Bloom time occurs as early as ten years or as long as thirty-five years, possibly longer depending on the environment. Bloom time usually occurs in May. The mechanism that triggers bloom is not fully understood.

**Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction:**

Not commonly cultivated in the U.S.

**Propagation:** Seed set is possible, but separating clones/pups is the more common method.

**Distribution/Range/Habitat:** From Eastern Mexico, in Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas to San Luis Potosi and Hidalgo. Attributed in some publications to cloud forests, which are tropical and subtropical forests created by fog (photo below).

**Cultural Requirements:** Can grow in sun or shade, does better in shade in low desert heat. Low-water plant, but supplemental irrigation is necessary during high heat. Hardy to 20-25°F, but has survived to 12°F in some locations. Produces clones from auxiliary branches which can form extensive colonies. Clone can be removed and relocated. Clumping occurs more at lower temperature locations and less in high temperature locations.

**Wildlife/Plant relationships:** Flower color indicates main pollinators are likely to be insects and nectar birds.

**Disease/Pathology/toxins:**

Liquid in leaf can cause skin irritation.

**Status:** (endangered, CITES, watchlist etc.)

**Resources:**

*Agaves, Yucca and Related Plants*, Mary & Gary Irish  
San Marcos Growers  
Plant Delights Nursery



Image of cloud forest in Costa Rica (Monteverde Cloud Forest)

Source: [www.travelmuse.com](http://www.travelmuse.com)