

Twin-Flowered Agave

Agave geminiflora*; *Littaea geminiflora*; *A. angustis-sima

Family: Acanthaceae /Agavaceae

Basic Description: A solitary species with no offsets. It can rise on a short stem with 100-200 leaves. The leaves can grow up to 2 feet long. The smooth leaf margin can have fine filaments along the edge in varying amounts, and some have none. The leaves are dark green with reddish-brown tones and very flexible. It leafs out from the crown creating a cascade effect. It has a very different appearance than other agave in the garden.



See below for more photos

Bloom & Fruit Description: They bloom once before dying, which occurs at about 10 years. Blooms will occur in February or March. Will get a narrow, un-branched inflorescence 9-12 feet tall. Flowers are yellow with a flush of red or purple at the base. They are held in pairs on upper 2/3rds of the stalk. We have not had a bloom in the Gardens yet.

Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction: *Geminiflora* named for twin growing flowers. Grows two flower stalks at maturity.

Distribution/Range/Habitat: It has a very restricted native range. Occurs in the wild in Ocotillo in the Mexican state of Nayarit, where it was found in oak woodlands at 3000-4000 elevation.

Cultural Requirements: It is cold tender and needs protection even in low deserts. It tolerates high shade and benefits from heavy watering in the summer. Grows well and quickly in containers, but needs space and ample water. Because of the flexible softer leaves, this variety can be planted near foot traffic paths.

Wildlife/Plant relationships: Flower color suggests insect and nectar bird pollination.

Disease/Pathology/toxins: **agave snout weevil**
Liquid in leaf is acidic and can cause skin irritation

Status: X

Resources:

Agaves, Yucca and Related Plants, Mary & Gary Irish
San Marcos Growers
Arizona Arboritum



With leaf filaments

Without leaf
filaments

Showing red tone to the leaves