

Black-Spined Agave

Agave macroacantha

Family: Acanthaceae /Agavaceae

Basic Description: A small to medium-sized agave. It forms off-sets from the base. The leaves are linear, flat above, and rigid. It can be a dusky blue-gray to green with dark brown teeth that appear black in shade and red in sunlight. Leaf margins are very straight; Very sculptural and distinctive.



See below for more photos

Bloom & Fruit Description: Inflorescence is a slender stalk rising 6.5 feet with 10-14 branches in the upper half of the stalk. Flowers are green with a purple tinge and fuzzy exterior. It can set **bulbils**. Has not yet bloomed in Center Gardens.

Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction: Not widely cultivated.

Propagation: Can be grown by seed, or removal of off-sets and bulbils.

Distribution/Range/Habitat: In Mexico, in Oaxaca and near Tehuacan in Puebla.

Cultural Requirements: It needs some shade in the lower desert and some additional irrigation. Not especially frost sensitive, but does have risk at higher elevations. Does well in Mediterranean climates and in barren, rocky ground.

Wildlife/Plant relationships: Flower color suggests pollinators are insects and nectar birds.

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



Close-up of spines