Variegated Century Plant

Agave americana 'Marginata'



Variegated Century Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 feet

Flower Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Agave americana var.marginata

Description:

As an ornamental, this variety is usually grown in rock gardens, cactus and succulent gardens; generally smaller when grown in containers; will tend to dominate the lanscape; it is very spiny so not good along walkways but makes a great accent plant

Ornamental Features

Variegated Century Plant features bold spikes of chartreuse cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has buttery yellow-variegated bluish-green foliage. The succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green throughout the winter.



Variegated Century Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Century Plant is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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
- Spiny

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Variegated Century Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Variegated Century Plant will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity extending to 15 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. 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 selection of a native North American species. 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.

Variegated Century Plant makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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. Be aware that in our climate, this plant may be too tender to survive the winter if left outdoors in a container. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.