

# Century Plant

## *Agave americana*

While there are over 200 species of *agave*, century plant is one of the most impressive. Not only does this plant look great in the landscape, it's a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plant. The plant's common name is a bit misleading; while many people think it means these plants live for—or bloom after—100 years, it actually matures much faster. Century plants generally take between 8 and 30 years to flower. Once the plant has reached maturity, a central stem grows up to 20 feet tall. Pale yellow or white blossoms appear atop this branched flower spire during summertime. Most century plants will die after they flower. These highly drought-tolerant and moderately salt-tolerant plants are easy to grow, but they do have a few "needs" to thrive. If your in-ground conditions are not ideal for growing century plant, try growing it in a container where you can control the soil conditions.

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INFORMATION**

**Type:** perennial succulent

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** specimen; accent

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 6 feet      **Spread:** 12 feet

**Plant spacing:** 12 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** tolerant

**Invasive potential:** none

**Pest resistance:** susceptible to some pests and diseases



Photo: UF/IFAS