



## Agave Growing Guide

■ Agave are architectural desert plants which thrive in full sun or even partial shade. In their natural environment they bake in the day and tolerate low temperatures at night.

■ It is important that all Agave are grown in well drained soil otherwise the roots and plant will rot. Adding grit to the planting mix will aid drainage greatly. Cold is not usually the problem in winter but a constantly wet plant can cause them to rot.

■ In winter it is generally advisable to cover Agave with fleece to prevent the worst of the wet from ruining the leaves appearance.

■ If growing in a pot, plant just below the root ball into a mix of multi-purpose compost or John Innes no2. mixed with horticultural grit and or perlite. If you have purchased larger Agave you may have offsets which can be potted up for new plants. Carefully remove each one keeping as much of the root on as possible and plant again into very well drained soil/compost with lots of grit.

■ Pruning is not normally necessary although older leaves can be pruned to keep the plant looking tidy especially if they start to rot if they have become damp. Cutting the sharp tips off the plant is a good idea if children are around to prevent injuries. This will not harm the plant in any way and will stop you and others from being painfully stabbed!

■ Water sparingly every 6-8 weeks if growing in a pot and Agave will not need watering if grown directly into the ground.

■ Agave grow at a moderate rate and please remember to plant in well drained soil. Add lots of grit and do not plant in heavy clay soil!

■ Using a slow or controlled release fertilizer when planting will ensure that your plant is correctly fed and will grow at an optimum rate remembering to re-pot as necessary. John Innes or general multi- purpose compost will usually have sufficient food for the first 4-6 weeks, if no food is added.

■ Please have a look at [www.easytropicals.com](http://www.easytropicals.com) for companion ideas and general hardiness information. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.