



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Small-flowered Agave *Agave parviflora*

DESCRIPTION: This compact gem is from a few areas in the grasslands and oak zones at around 4000' elevation in southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. It has a limited distribution and a status of rare given by the government, but fortunately is widely available in horticulture. The individual rosettes may get as much as 6" across and mature in 5 to 8 years. At that time it puts up a short (2'-3') spike of whitish-green flowers. That rosette eventually dies, but many more are produced at the base as pups.

RECOMMENDED USE: Even though it is quite small, Small-flowered Agave can be used, with care, in a landscape. Planting it in a rock garden may insure that it does not get stepped on. It also is a good subject for container culture.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to at least to 20°F.



Sun tolerance: It may sunburn or dry out quickly in full sun, so light shade, especially in the afternoon, is best.



Watering and feeding: Water year round about once every week to ten days in the ground (depending on rainfall). In containers it may need it a little more often. Feed about once every month or two.



Soil requirements: For a rock garden, plant in well-drained; avoid clay-rich soils. Use a fast-draining potting soil for containers.



Pruning: None necessary.