



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Octopus Agave or Amole *Agave vilmoriniana*

DESCRIPTION: The Octopus Agave is a beautiful, unarmed century plant that is well adapted to Tucson landscapes. In nature, it is found on cliffs along canyons in Sonora. It is fast growing to 3'-4' width, with graceful, arching leaves. At between 7 and 10 years old, it puts up a spectacular bloom stalk. It is 10' tall or more, and covered with bright yellow flowers. The parent plant will die after flowering, but hundreds of bulbils (plantlets) will form on the stalk. The bulbils can be easily rooted. Bury the base about ½" deep in sandy potting soil. Rooting should happen within 4-10 weeks.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, or in rock gardens. Can be kept in a large pot.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is somewhat frost tender, suffering damage as low temperatures dip below 25°F. Grow it against a protected south-facing wall or boulder, or keep it in a container that can be moved indoors during freezing weather if you live in a colder section of Tucson.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives on sites with afternoon shade or filtered, all-day sun. It may sunburn in full sun, but may adapt even in the hottest, sunniest locations.



Watering and feeding: It is a fall and spring grower, but still needs at least weekly watering in the summer. Fertilize if grown in containers



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains is suitable.



Pruning: None needed.