



**JEN SCAPES, INC**



## **Agave, Octopus**

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**Fruit Color**    Brown and green  
The fruit is dry and oval.

### **Culture Notes**

Octopus Agave does best in full sun but can adapt to some shade. Not tolerant of reflected sun, as from a light colored building. After 10 to 15 years or more (though not a century), a lofty flower spike is produced, sometimes reaching a height of 15 feet, with terminal panicles of pale yellow to white blooms. The plant dies after blooming. The plant is typically used in residences as a free-standing specimen, not planted in mass. Due to its large size, most residences only need one of these. Larger commercial landscapes have room for multiple mass plantings which can create a dramatic impact.

Agaves are pollinated by bats, hummingbirds, bees and other insects. Individual leaves may live for 12 years. Removing lower foliage is of dubious aesthetic value but this can prolong the time to flowering and eventual plant death. Early death may result from overwatering, cold temperatures or the agave snout beetle.

**The agave snout weevil feeds on the leaves and crown. The female beetle lays its eggs between the leaf spikes, and the eggs hatch into grubs/larvae which feed on the agave. The agave snout weevil can allow pathogens to enter the agave which can eventually kill the plant.**

**Apply a broad-spectrum insecticide in the spring to help prevent the agave snout weevil.**