PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Agave atrovirens* Karw. ex Salm-Dyck

**GENUS** *Agave* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Maguey agave

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Sap, Flower stalk, Stem, Fruit

The sap and crushed stem base are used to produce an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.
The sap and stem can also be eaten.
The flower stalk is roasted and eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

An agave. It is a short stemmed succulent plant. It grows 1.8 m tall. It has rings of large fleshy leaves. There can be 100 leaves and they are about 1m long. There is a spine at the end 2.5 cm long. The flower stalks can be 3-10 m long.

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in open areas between 1,800-3,400 m above sea level.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or suckers.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants take 16-20 years to reach their full height.

## NOTES

There are about 250 Agave species. The Agavaceae are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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