PLANT FACT SHEET

Agave deserti Engelm.

GENUS *Agave* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Desert agave, Coastal agave

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, bud, Flower stalk, Sap, flower - nectar, leaves

The flowers and flower buds are eaten.
The flower stalks are baked and the starchy cake eaten.
The leaf bases are baked and eaten.
The sap is used to make an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.
The flower nectar is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A succulent plant. It can be simple or form clumps. It grows 2.4-4.5 m high and spreads 40-60 cm wide. The leaves are narrow and 15-40 cm long. They are bluish-green to grey and have small sharp teeth along the edge. The flower stalk is 2.4-4.5 m tall. It is branched. The flowers are bright yellow.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in desert areas. It can grow in arid places. Melbourne Botanical gardens. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

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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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/872c9bed-5faa-4804-9b13-a514eee2f0d3