

Twin Flowered Agave



Agave geminiflora

- **Use:** A beautiful agave with its long and thin leaves that form an overall shape of round pom poms. A bright accent in the waterwise landscape or a unique ground-cover in mass plantings. Architectural look in rock in gardens, near stacked stone, and in pots.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Tolerates most soil as long as it is well-draining. It enjoys full sun and reflected heat but can also grow in light shade. It is drought-resistant requiring very little water, but it does like some supplemental irrigation during the hot summer (every 10 days). Use slow release fertilizer for best results. Do not plant in low lying areas or in red clay– you will need to amend the area with sand, and grit for best results. Drainage is of utmost importance. Sandy soil a must. Planting in any red clay is a death sentence.
- **Growth:** Rosettes 2 to 4 ft. wide on 5 ft. wide clumps; flower spikes to 20 ft. tall.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 8b-11, Tender Perennial (hardy to 25 degrees, will need winter protection/ this is not a beginner plant for those that want it to come back as it may need to be wrapped in winter.)
- **Foliage:** Evergreen. This unique agave has narrow, dark green unarmed leaves that are very flexible. These leaves, which often number in the 100's, cascade from the center of the plant forming a dense rounded rosette to 2 to 3 feet tall by as wide.
- **Flower:** When plants mature they will initiate flowers which are formed in pairs on an unbranched spike that rises 8 to 10 feet. After blooming, the mother plant will die. However, this agave produces many offsets and tends to form large colonies.

The species name 'geminiflora', meaning "twin flowered" is in reference to the flower pairs. The native habitat of *Agave geminiflora* is oak woodlands at 3,000 to 4,000 feet in the Nayarit, Mexico. A great plant in a large container. Similar to *Agave filifera* ssp *multifilifera* but *Agave geminiflora* has more rounded leaves and fewer hairs on the leaf margins.

Selections have been made of this species that have fibrous silvery hairs that curl back along the margins. We grow one such plant under the name *Agave geminiflora* (Threadleaf form) but actually prefer the clean look of the form that does not have these hairs.