



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Red Cow Agave

Agave colorata X bovicornuta

DESCRIPTION: This century plant is a Desert Museum “unintentional creation” that happened when a Cow Horn Agave (*Agave bovicornuta*) and an *Agave colorata* (translating to reddish) bloomed at the same time. Bees took care of the rest. The plants have a mixture of traits of the parents. Leaves are large and dark green, with numerous stout, reddish teeth. Growth rate is fast for a century plant, maturing at around 10 years. It has a mature diameter of over 3 feet. A stout, 10’ tall bloom stalk is then sent up, producing clusters of yellow flowers. Both parents are native to Sonora, Mexico; *Agave colorata* is native to the coastal hills, and *Agave bovicornuta* is found naturally in the Tropical Deciduous Forests of the Sierra Madre Occidentalis.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, a specimen, for its form and color, as a barrier, or in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape. For safety reasons, be sure to allow for ultimate size when planting. Red Cow Agave becomes too large for most patio containers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: We’ve only tested this species to 25°F and it did fine.



Sun tolerance: Morning sun or all day filtered sun will prevent burning and keep the plant deep green.



Watering and feeding: Low water use once established. Feeding not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil.



Pruning: None necessary.