Small-flowered Agave
*Agave parviflora*

**DESCRIPTION:** This compact gem is from a few areas in the grasslands and oak zones at around 4000' elevation in southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. It has a limited distribution and a status of rare given by the government, but fortunately is widely available in horticulture. The individual rosettes may get as much as 6" across and mature in 5 to 8 years. At that time it puts up a short (2'-3') spike of whitish-green flowers. That rosette eventually dies, but many more are produced at the base as pups.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Even though it is quite small, Small-flowered Agave can be used, with care, in a landscape. Planting it in a rock garden may insure that it does not get stepped on. It also is a good subject for container culture.

**CULTURE:**

- **Hardiness:** Down to at least to 20°F.
- **Sun tolerance:** It may sunburn or dry out quickly in full sun, so light shade, especially in the afternoon, is best.
- **Watering and feeding:** Water year round about once every week to ten days in the ground (depending on rainfall). In containers it may need it a little more often. Feed about once every month or two.
- **Soil requirements:** For a rock garden, plant in well-drained; avoid clay-rich soils. Use a fast-draining potting soil for containers.
- **Pruning:** None necessary.