



## *Agave ovatifolia*

**Description:** *Agave ovatifolia* is solitary (non-offsetting) with a hemispherical rosette reaching anywhere from 2-5 feet tall by 3-6 feet across. When grown hard, the plant will stay on the smaller end while those grown with ample moisture will attain maximum size. The common name, *Whale's Tongue* comes from the short, wide, distinctively cupped leaf blade. Marginal teeth are small, and the dark grayish black terminal spine is about 1 inch long. The paniculate inflorescence is 10-14 feet tall and consists of several side branches, each densely clustered with large, greenish yellow flowers

**Habitat and Distribution:** *Agave ovatifolia* is found in the sierras in northeastern Mexico. It occurs at elevations from 3,700-7,000 feet.

**Culture:** Place *Agave ovatifolia* in full sun or very light filtered sun, it grows quite well under the shade of small trees like *Eysenhardtia orthocarpa* or *Leucaena retusa*. In the low desert zone of the southwestern United States, the plant will b *Agave ovatifolia* is hardy, having withstood winter lows of about 4–5°F in Dallas without sustaining damage. The growth rate is moderate, taking several years to achieve full size. Plants are tolerant of most soil types as long as drainage is good. Grow hard (minimal water and fertilizer) to keep plants towards the smaller end of the spectrum. When given ample water they can attain a size of 2 meters tall and 2 meters wide.

**Uses:** *Agave ovatifolia* has many uses. It can be placed in a decorative pot and used as a focal point on a patio. When planted in the ground, it can be used in all zones of a xeriscape. The plant does great when placed under the shade of small trees like *Acacia willardiana*, *Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*, or *Leucaena retusa*. *Agave ovatifolia* fits in nicely with cactus, and other succulent and semi-succulent plants. It would also look attractive when planted near large boulders.



Planted in a Tucson  
Landscape

Agave ocahui Information Page



#1 Container



#2 Container

To  
print  
Hit  
the  
Blue  
Agave

