For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

AGAVE CARE

LIGHT

Agaves, including Blue Flame, variegated desmettiana and tequila agave, need very bright light. Give a sunny window or a suitable sunroom, introducing stronger light gradually. Pale or variegated leaves may need protection from intense midday heat. These rosette-forming succulents do poorly in dim rooms.

WATERING

Let the potting mix dry well before watering thoroughly. Allow all excess water to drain and empty the saucer. Avoid frequent small sips, standing water and water trapped around the growing center. In cool, low-light winter conditions, water very sparingly, checking the mix deep in the pot.

SOIL

Use a gritty cactus and succulent mix with excellent drainage. Add pumice, perlite or horticultural grit if the mix retains moisture too long. Choose a stable container with drainage holes. Repot when crowded, moving up modestly and keeping the rosette and stem base at their original level.

TEMPERATURE

Protect these container-grown agaves from freezing during Maine winters. A bright, frost-free room is suitable; cooler conditions require much less water. Average household humidity is adequate. Summer outdoor plants need gradual sun acclimation and should come indoors before cold autumn weather.

FERTILIZING & GROWTH

Feed sparingly during active spring and summer growth with a dilute succulent fertilizer at the labeled rate. Stop feeding during winter rest. Allow space for the rosette to expand. Many agaves flower only once after years of growth, after which that rosette dies; offsets may continue growing.

HANDLING & PESTS

Wear sturdy gloves and keep sharp leaf tips away from walkways and faces when moving the pot. Sap can irritate skin, so wash after handling. Avoid rubbing the waxy leaf coating. Inspect leaf bases for scale or mealybugs. Soft crowns and collapsing leaves call for checking rot and excess moisture.