



AGAVE PLANTING TIPS

AGAVE, AND ALL OTHER DESERT SPECIMENS, NEED EXTREMELY WELL-DRAINED SOIL. SANDY, LOAMY SOIL IS BEST AS THIS IS THEIR NATIVE HABITATS TYPE OF SOIL.

1

KNOW WHAT YOUR AGAVE NEEDS MOST FOR SUCCESSFUL PLANTING:

The biggest need you need to be concerned about when planting agaves, or other desert specimens, is soil drainage.



2

TEST FOR SOIL DRAINAGE:

- Dig the hole in the area you desire to plant in. Fill up the hole with water and let it drain.
- Then fill up the hole again and time how long it takes to drain.



3

WHAT YOUR DRAINAGE RESULTS MEAN:

- **Fast-draining soil:**
 - Water drains in less than 10 minutes - this may indicate very sandy soil which may be drought-prone. While many desert plants prefer well-drained soil, very sandy soil may require more frequent watering or moisture retaining soil amendments to help retain some moisture. But fast draining soil is better than poor drainage.
- **Good drainage:**
 - Water drains at a rate of 1-4 inches per hour - your soil is well-draining and likely has a good mixture of sand and loam, which is suitable for desert specimens.
- **Poor drainage:**
 - Water drains at a rate of less than 1 inch per hour, or water remains after 12 hours - you have poorly draining soil. You will need to amend your soil with coarse sand, lava rock, or gravel in order to allow for better drainage. A new location with better drainage may be warranted. (See berm planting section below for another option.)

4

BERM PLANTING OPTION FOR SOIL THAT DOESN'T DRAIN WELL:

- Dig at least 8" down into the soil, and only twice as wide as the rootball.
- Set specimen in designated area and build a soil pile (berm) up around the rootball, being sure to cover the rootball completely.
- Cover planting area with decorative rock or other landscape material to help prevent soil erosion.

