

## AGAVACEAE – AGAVE or CENTURY-PLANT FAMILY

**Plant:** herb (somewhat shrubby) or shrub; succulent or not, evergreen; perennial

**Stem:** somewhat woody at base

**Root:**

**Leaves:** evergreen, crowded, sometimes basal, alternate, sharp or dagger-like and tough, thick or fleshy, often tipped by spine, margins loosely fibrous; parallel veined

**Flowers:** perfect, mostly regular (actinomorphic), petaloid tepals in 2 cycles of 3 (6-parted and bell-like), often fleshy or thick; 3 or 6 stamens; ovary superior or inferior, 3 fused carpels

**Fruit:** capsules - elliptical, somewhat 6-sided, 3 or 6 locules, many black seeds.

**Other:** popular ornamental, had many uses for the Native Americans; previously placed in the Lily (Liliaceae) Family. Best developed in dry regions; Monocotyledons Group

**Genera:** 20+ genera; locally *Yucca* and *Manfreda*

**Agavaceae (Century-Plant Family) – flower usually of 6 colored tepals in 2 series of 3; leaves parallel veined**

**Genus *Hesperaloe* and *Yucca***



**Common Flowers**



**Seeds and Seed Pods**

**Genus *Manfreda***



# AGAVACEAE – AGAVE or CENTURY-PLANT FAMILY

Redflower False Yucca; *Hesperaloe parviflora* (Torr.) J.M. Coult.  
False Aloe [Virginia Tube-Rose]; *Manfreda virginica* (L.) Salisb. ex Rose  
Adam's Needle [Spanish-Bayonet, Yucca]; *Yucca filamentosa* L.

# Redflower False Yucca

*Hesperaloe parviflora* (Torr.) J.M. Coult.

Agavaceae (Century-Plant Family)

Friedrich Wilderness Park, Bexar County,  
Texas

Notes: 6 pinkish-red, mostly free tepals, on flowering  
stem 2 to 3 m high; leaves thick, rigid, mostly linear,  
strongly in-rolled, with fibrous 'threads'; fruit a  
capsule up to 3 cm, seeds dark brown to black; often  
cultivated; summer

[N. Max Brown, 2010]



# False Aloe [Virginia Tube- Rose]



*Manfreda virginica* (L.) Salisb. ex Rose  
Agavaceae (Century-Plant Family)  
Winona Area, Shannon County,  
Missouri

Notes: flower perianth a long tube with  
6 shorter lobes, greenish to yellowish,  
turning reddish-brown; flowers in a  
very interrupted spike on very long (1-2  
m) scape; scape glabrous; leaves  
lanceolate, in a basal rosette; often in  
oak woods; summer

[N. Max Brown, 2009]



# Yucca [Adam's Needle; Spanish-Bayonet]



*Yucca filamentosa* L.

Agavaceae (Century-Plant Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 6 white free tepals, flower nodding, on panicle along a high scape above leaves; leaves thick, rigid, mostly linear and spine-tipped, with fibrous 'threads'; sandy areas especially, often planted; summer

[N. Max Brown, 2004]

