

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 with 6 colored tepals in 2 series of 3; leaves parallel veined, usually evergreen

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
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]

