



WEEDS CENTURY PLANT

Glossary

Basal

Arising from the base of plant.

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

Rosette

A tuft of leaves, usually at ground level, resembling the arrangement of petals in a rose.

For More Information

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Agave Americana

Introduction

The Agave family has some 600 species that are often found in warm arid zones.

Many species are planted in gardens, and may persist around settlement sites and roadsides, but only *Agave Americana* is considered truly naturalised.

Its sap can cause dermatitis.

Origin

South Africa.

Life form

Perennial herb.

Description

Robust perennial with giant rosettes; up to 7 m tall; has no stem.

Its thick and massive grey-green leaves originate from a basal rosette.

Leaves: Stiff; fleshy; spine-tipped; with numerous teeth along their margins.

Flowers: Yellow.

Reproduction & Dispersal

It reproduces by seeds and suckers.

The seeds are dispersed by wind and water.

It dies after blooming, but produces offsets or 'pups' throughout its life and these remain to continue the lineage.

Growing Habit

It forms thickets by suckering and can be found at various sites around old settlements.

Distribution

Scattered populations; mostly coastal areas; Shark Bay - Esperance and Kalgoorlie. Population north of Karratha.

Flowering Season

Plant flowers only once, every 10 to 15 years, then dies; Summer.

Effect on Ecosystem

The plant spreads from

adjacent plantings or rubbish tips.

Locally out competes & replaces native plants.

May cause dermatitis following contact with skin.

Control

Manual Removal

Wear protective clothing.

Dig out small infestations.

Removal of all living plant material by cutting and grubbing.

Subsequent removal of new re-growth as it emerges is an effective means of control.

Chemical Treatment

Difficult to control using herbicides.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals.

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