**Describe a kind of plant or vegetable**

You should say:

What it is

How you first learned about this plant

Where it grows

And explain whether you like it or not

I am going to describe the variegated Century plant, which is desert plant similar to the tequila agave. Incredibly beautiful and majestic, variegated century plant, is a very large rosette of thick, spiny-edged, green leaves with creamy to golden-yellow band along the margins. The older leaves often gracefully arch down, suggesting motion, which makes the garden even more intriguing. I was excited when I chanced upon a colony of these plants beautifying the landscape outside a country house at Wensheng town. And I was even more captivated when I observed two flowering stalks towering above the plants a few months later. You just need to grow a single variegated century plant in your garden for that lovely tropical look and it will perpetuate itself by producing offspring readily from below the rosette. Besides, it will produce numerous aerial bulbils on its flowering stalk which occurs only once when it’s about 10-15 years old, before it expires. I like the beautiful golden edges of the leaves, which give me the feeling of the dry and sunshine desert because Sichuan is a very damp place lack of sunshine. I feel very happy every time I give a baby-one to people excited by its beauty.

The plant forms a large rosette of twisted silvery-green leaves and strips of bright yellow along its leaf margins, giving it the appearance of a striped ribbon. Its sword-like leaves stand upright to about four to six feet tall and wide, growing in a stiff rosette. The leaves are armed with small brown hooks and it has a sharp, spiny tip on each leaf.

**Culture (Care):** Dwarf Variegated Agave grows easily with low maintenance. It enjoys the tropical and desert or arid climatic conditions.  
**Light:** Grows best in full sun but is tolerant of light shade or semi-shade. However, in shade, the marginal yellow variegation is less vibrant in colour.  
**Moisture:** Medium to low water requirements. When mature and established, it is drought tolerant and needs occasional watering. However, it thrives best with regular watering during the hot seasons.  
**Soil:** Prefers well-drained, infertile, sandy or sandy loam soils.  
**Others:** It dislikes wet feet and if waterlogged, may lead to root rot. You can clip off the sharp reddish-brown spine at the tip of leaf blades, when grown in high traffic areas, if desired. If a single garden specimen is preferred as a focal point, remove the unwanted suckers around it routinely to make its beautiful architectural character stands out. It is generally free from diseases and pests.  
**For subtropical and temperate regions:** Hardiness: USDA Zone 9-11. In non-hardy regions with temperature below 25°F, it should be protected from heavy frost or overwintered indoors with sufficient light and minimum water.

* **Propagation:** By separating suckers or pups and grow them as new plants. Or propagate by removing and planting the aerial bulbils that are produced on flowering stalks.
* **Usage:** Agave desmettiana ‘Variegata’ will be ideal for container planting because of its dwarfish stature.  
  With a bold and statuesque form, it will make a stunning landscape plant, whether grown singly as a striking accent or mass in garden border/flower-bed. As it is highly drought tolerant, it’s excellent too for xeriscapes, rock and desert gardens. It is also useful if grown as hedges to fence off animals and undesirable humans.

**External link:**

* [Dave’s Garden](http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/60592/" \t "_blank) on Agave desmettiana ‘Variegata’

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Tags: [flowering plants](http://www.jaycjayc.com/tag/flowering-plants/), [foliage plants](http://www.jaycjayc.com/tag/foliage-plants/), [herbaceous](http://www.jaycjayc.com/tag/herbaceous/), [indoor plants](http://www.jaycjayc.com/tag/indoor-plants/),