

Spear Sansevieria

Sansevierias are grown for their ornamental sculptural appearance. They form evergreen leaves with narrow grooves grown from the base that build stiff pointed peaks, round in circumference. Rings in lighter and darker green alternate horizontally, making this plant attractive all year round. In time, they become dense clumps up to 0.6 to 1.5 metre high. Several leaves form fan-like sprays and spread underground by rhizomes. They are easy to propagate by removing suckers or dividing mature clumps. Flowers are pollinated by moths, and accordingly the flowers open at night and emit a very pleasant scent. The flowering stalk may reach 0.9 metres height bearing pink buds that open to produce white cups. After the flowers are spent, the fan usually dies, but will soon be replaced by new shoots emerging from the fleshy rhizomes. Its drought tolerance makes this plant one of the toughest indoor plants and an impressive succulent for rock gardens, where it makes a dominant specimen. A small-scale plant for gardens, it does well in containers or in pool areas. This species is native to the scrub and light woodland of Angola. Recently introduced into Arriyadh, it revels in full sun, but does better in partial shade. The soil may be poor or contain moderate nutrient levels. Excellent drainage is essential, because the plant is vulnerable to stagnant water. Constant moisture results in root rot. The soil should be allowed to dry before being watered again. The plants will cope with hot, arid climates, and either acidic or alkaline soil.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: cuttings, division
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2500 ppm)
Hardiness	: +3°C

SHAPE

Type	: cacti, succulents
Height	: 0.6 m-1.5 m
Spread	: 0.3 m-1 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: white, secondary: pale pink
Period	: June - July
Smell	: scented, flower, sweet

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: berry
Fruit size	: 0.6 cm
Toxicity	: inedible