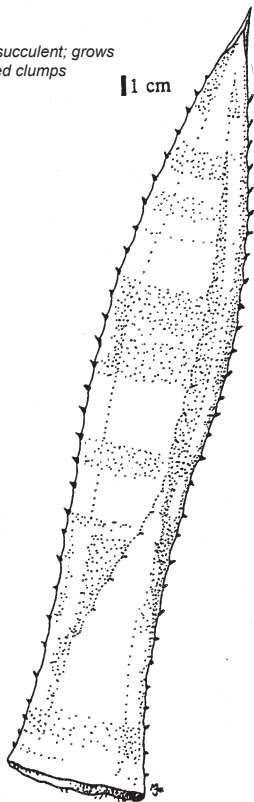


Perennial succulent; grows  
in separated clumps

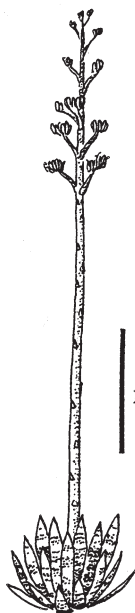
1 cm



flowers waxy cream-  
green with purplish  
or brownish tips,  
51-75 mm long

inflorescence  
with stalk 3-4  
m tall, narrowly  
paniculate,  
lateral branches  
ascending, always  
producing bulbils  
after flowering

1 m



leaves curl inward slightly

leaves light blue-green to dark  
green, spoon-shaped, 50-80  
cm long, with small, marginal  
teeth, terminal spine short and  
conical

rosette dense

## Agavaceae (Agave Family)

**Phenology:** flowering March to July.

**Management Responsibility:** USFS (Tonto NF), BLM (Phoenix Field Office, Safford Field Office), AZ State Land Dept, private.

**Similar Species:** differs from *A. chrysantha* and *A. delamateri* by its spoon-shaped, deep green leaves, short conical spine, production of bulbils in undamaged inflorescences.

**Notes:** first documented case of agave cultivation north of Mexico, believed to have been grown by Hohokam for food, fiber, and trade as it is found in or near pre-Columbian archaeological features; only 60 clones known from "wild"; hybridizes with *A. chrysantha* in Gila County.

**References:** AGFD, 1997d. Gibson, 1935. Hodgson, in press. Hodgson, 1994b.



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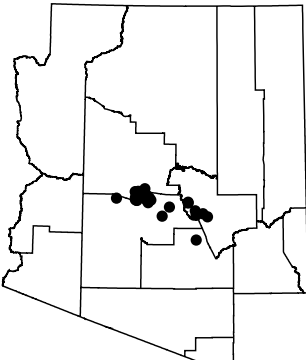
*Agave murpheyi*

*fallen inflorescence*

**Habitat:** usually in close proximity of major drainage systems on open hilly slopes or alluvial terraces in desert scrub, 1,350-2,950 ft (400-890 m) elevation.



John Anderson/BLM



**Range:** Paradise Valley, New River Mountains, South Bradshaw Mountains, Castle Creek River, Agua Fria River; Roosevelt Lake, Mazatzal Mountains, Tonto Basin, and Queen Creek near Superior.