Agave lophantha  C.J.W. Schiede ex C.S. Kunth  Thorncrest Century Plant
(Agave heteracantha, Agave mezortillo, Agave univitta var. lophantha, Agave vittata)

- This species is also known as Lechuguilla; although closely related to A. lechuguilla and freely hybridizing with it, A. lophantha can be distinguished by its tendency to be slightly taller, 2’ to 3½’ (4’), have rosettes that are more open and widespread to about 2’, and have leaves that are broader with less noticeable striation and the gray ridged margins contain more teeth, sometimes on raised portions of the gray margins; in addition, A. lophantha may with reasonable frequency be found as individual rosettes, but also can form colonies of suckers; the foliage can be a lighter green, but is often a darker richer green than A. lechuguilla, aside from the central light green midrib; flowers are somewhat similar to those of A. lechuguilla, although less showy as they contain less yellow and red coloration, being mostly yellow-green to green.

- Agave lophantha is found in extreme South Texas, Starr and Zapata Counties, and into Mexico; it is becoming more common in the Southwestern USA nursery trade and can be useful in USDA plant hardiness zones 9 (8b) to 13; as with all Agave, A. lophantha typically performs best in a sunny site with well drained soils; ‘Quadricolor’ is a popular vertically variegated selection with creamy white exteriors, dark olive green intermediate strips, and a central light green stripe, and edged with sequentially aging yellowish, black and then grey teeth; other variegated cultivars are available.

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