

Mission to Mars Mad About Mangave



A real conversation starter! We love them most in containers to add texture and a sculptural look in areas that don't get much water. Native to North America

Mangave 'Mad About Mission to Mars'

- **Use:** A common nickname for Mars is the Red Planet, and this Mangave gets its moniker due to the unique, intense red coloration from the leaves. Mangave is a relatively new phenomenon, an intergeneric cross of Manfreda x Agave. These rare hybrids combine the best of both worlds: the better growth rate and the interesting patterns of Manfreda, and the habit and refinement of Agave. We are very excited (shall we say mad?) about these hybrids.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grows best in full sun. Plant in well-drained, dry to average soil in containers just slightly wider than the width of the rosette or plant directly in the ground. In summer when the plants are actively growing, they appreciate a bit of supplemental watering and half-strength fertilizer. They should be grown dry in winter. Mangave is a slower grower, so it will not quickly overtake the space it is allotted in the landscape.
- **Growth:** Grows 8-10" tall and 20-22" wide and can expand further.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 8-10; Tender Perennial that will need protection in winter. Good drainage in rocky soil is a must for good winter drainage. Bring indoors in winter and keep above 60 degrees with high light as a houseplant for safest bet until we know more about their cold hardiness in our area.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous (Evergreen if indoors in winter). 2¾" wide, thick green leaves are heavily speckled with burgundy red, with spots that bleed into each other for an overall red appearance. The red coloration is brought out best in direct UV light and becomes subdued under heavy plastic. The long leaves form an arching habit, caused by the tips of the leaves curving downward. Margins curl upward to show off its cinnamon spines, a nice color complement to the red.
- **Flower:** After several years of growth, a plant can send up a bloom stalk up to 7.0' high of branching, yellow inflorescences. Most Mangave are monocarpic and produce only one bloom in their lifetime. They can, however, produce new offsets or "pups" that will live on after the mother plant dies.

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