



Photo Credit:

Family Name: Asparagaceae, Agavoideae
 In the APG II system, Agave was placed in the segregated family Agavaceae. When this system was superseded by the APG III system in 2009, the Agavaceae were subsumed into the expanded family Asparagaceae, and Agave was treated as one of 18 genera in the subfamily Agavoideae.

CNPS Rare Plant Rank: Global rank between G2 and G3, and a State Rank of S1.2

Bloom Period: Once. Between 30-40 years for a plant to flower. Feb and May in CA and Nov in Baja.

Name Etymology: Named after Henry Shaw, founder of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Plant Characteristics/Associations: Occurs only coastally where it can take advantage of buffered temperatures and fog moisture.

Plant Distribution: San Diego County, California and northern Baja California coastline

Plant Habitat: Maritime coastal scrub
Plant terroir: Sandy loam soil that has good drainage.

Garden History	Accession 62.012
Garden Locations	Southern CA section
Medicinal and California Native People Uses	Consumed after extracting the head using a stick and cooking the head in an oven for two days. The fiber used for making belts, bowstrings, carrying nets, cordage, sandals, and other indispensable items.
Plant Story (1)	The largest segment of Shaw's agave in the entire US is found on the Point Loma peninsula, where it is protected on lands managed by the National Park Service (Cabrillo National Monument) and the US Marines and Navy. There is a 25 km (16 mi) north-to-south gap between the southernmost natural plants in San Diego County and the northernmost natural plants in Baja California.

References

CalFlora: <https://www.calflora.org/app/taxon?crn=10489>

Jepson eFlora: https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=82138

National Park Service: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/87ddc8f9e53b4904923e9de7553457e4>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agave_shawii

Plant Story (2)	<p>Agaves are monocarpic. They flower once, and then die. The inflorescence grows 2–4 m (6.6–13.1 ft) tall. The parent is replaced by clonal pups.</p> <p>The large tubular and upright flowers of Shaw's agave demonstrate characteristics associated with bat pollination. The specific pollinator of Shaw's agave has not yet been identified.</p>
Plant Story (3)	

References

CalFlora: <https://www.calflora.org/app/taxon?crn=10489>Jepson eFlora: https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=82138National Park Service: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/87ddc8f9e53b4904923e9de7553457e4>Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agave_shawii