

the agave lived a hundred years before flowering; hence it was frequently called the *Century Plant*. It really flowers only once in about ten years, and the planter has to wait patiently for the flowering season to obtain a supply of pulque, as this liquor is formed from the juice contained in the young flower-stalk. From the leaves of this and other species of the agave genus, the useful fibre called *aloe-fibre*, *Magney piñe* or *piñe hemp*, is obtained. — See AMARYLLIDACEÆ.

Agave, *n.* [Gr. *agavos*, admirable.] (*Bot.*) A genus of plants of the tribe *Agavaceæ*. The typical species is *Agave americana*, the American aloe or magney. This plant is cultivated by the Mexicans, who obtain from it a favorite drink called *pulque*, *octli*, or agave wine. From pulque an ardent spirit is distilled, which is known by the name of *Mescal*, or, less commonly, *aguardiente de Magney*.— The plant is of slow growth; but when fully developed, its leaves, which spring directly from the ground, attain a height of from five to eight feet. From the midst of the great cluster of leaves a flower-stem arises, and from this numerous flower-bearing branches spring, so that the whole plant has somewhat the appearance of a candelabrum. It was formerly erroneously supposed that