

The Giddings News

July 11, 1924

Century Plant

Our fellow townsman John Weber has a century plant in bloom and he is glad to show the same to those interested in flowers. The plant was set out by Mr. Weber 35 years ago and this is the first time it has blossomed. It is a dwarf plant, but the year it blooms the tall candlestick type of stem grows very rapidly and the top is covered with tiny flowers. This year the stem grew 22 feet in the nine weeks since Easter Sunday. After the plant blooms, the entire plant dies gradually, and the old leaves are now beginning to show signs of dying.

The century plant (known as the agave) is a tropical plant of Southwestern America and Mexico. It gets its name because it was supposed to bloom only once in a century, and some plants do not bloom at all. The plant is a useful one, particularly for its fiber and properties for making soap. Intoxicants (pulque and mescal) are also made from its juice and if you have ever been in the Rio Grande country (you don't have to cross over into Mexico) you have heard of Mescal, because it is a favorite drink among the Mexicans.

Mr. Weber has long cared for his plant and his efforts have been finally rewarded in beautiful flowers.