

## Acanthus - sennii - Care Guide

### Caring For Acanthus Sennii

This is a new introduction to the Burncoose website and needs a separate care article of its own. *Acanthus mollis* and *Acanthus spinosus* are well known and totally hardy (if not also thuggish and invasive) herbaceous plants requiring little care and attention except to contain them. *A. mollis* originates from SW Europe and *A. spinosus* from Italy to Turkey.

*Acanthus sennii* is native to Ethiopia and is a small to medium sized shrub of considerable rarity in the UK. It can be an attractive ornamental feature in a coastal garden if grown in the correct manner.

It needs a warm, sheltered, sunny and well drained site. Large banks of these plants thrive in the municipal gardens of Falmouth. In a coldish winter *A. sennii* may die back to ground level but, if given a thick protective mulch, it will readily reshoot.

Propagation is straightforward, as with all species of *acanthus*, the roots can be chopped and split in winter or early spring to generate new plants.

*A. sennii* has purplish-black stems and strikingly attractive holly like leaves. These are pale green when young with standout silvery-white veining and very spiny edges. The tongue-like flowers are a bright orange-red and are borne in spiky racemes from late summer into autumn.



Acanthus\_sennii small



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