

## Agave - Growing Guide

### Growing Agave

Agaves enjoy exactly the same sort of hot dry situations as you would find also hosting yucca, fucraea and beschorneria.

They originate from the USA, Mexico and South America but only two of these species of succulents are genuinely hardy outside in southern parts of the UK or in coastal locations. These are *Agave americana* and the much smaller growing *Agave parryi*.

The leaves form large rosettes. They are thick and leathery and armed with formidable spines and teeth. In Mexico *Agave atrovirens* is grown as the source of their natural drink. The stems are pulped and fermented to create tequila. Before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors to Mexico agave provided both paper and fibre as well as alcohol.

In the UK agave have a claim to fame only as notable architectural plants best kept well away from the public or children in locations where they can be admired without any physical contact.



*Agave ferox argentea*



*Agave victoria reginae*



*Agave americana*



Agave americana



Agave americana



Agave americana



Agave americana



Agave americana  
flowering



Agave americana - dying  
off



Huge Agave

If you need to grow these plants in the greenhouse for frost protection they can be treated like other cacti or succulents and grown in cactus compost. Water freely in summer and sparingly or hardly at all in winter.

We sometimes offer other species of agave on the website (Agave filifera, Agave victoriae-reginae) but these should be viewed as greenhouse plants.

## Propagation By Splitting - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/rIziy-3gypE>

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