

Agave sisalana

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Liliales	Agavaceae

Common name agave (English), te robu (English, Kiribati), garingboom (Afrikaans), sisal agave (English), mescal (English), hemp-plant (English), Maguey de Sisal (Spanish), century plant (English), te rob' (English, Kiribati), malina (English, Hawaii), ndali (English, Fiji), natali (English, Fiji), dali (English, Fiji), sisal hemp (English), sisal (English)

Synonym *Agave rigida* , var. *sisalana* (Perrine) Engelm.

Similar species

Summary *Agave sisalana* is a member of the Agavaceae family and is native to Mexico. It is known primarily for its fibre production, and is grown commercially worldwide for the fibre industry. It is a large and fast-propagating plant, which can cause problems in areas where it is invasive as it can exclude and outcompete native plant species. *A. sisalana* is invasive in Australia, Madagascar, South Africa, the United States and on multiple islands in the Pacific.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Uses

Agave sisalana is used a source of fiber and it is used as an ornamental plant. Parts of the plant are used as medicine.

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-08

ALIEN RANGE

[2] AUSTRALIA

[1] CHRISTMAS ISLAND

[1] BERMUDA

[1] FIJI



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Agave sisalana*

[2] FRENCH POLYNESIA	[1] GUAM
[1] JAPAN	[6] KIRIBATI
[1] MADAGASCAR	[4] MARSHALL ISLANDS
[1] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF	[1] NAURU
[1] NEW CALEDONIA	[2] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
[1] PALAU	[1] PAPUA NEW GUINEA
[1] PHILIPPINES	[1] PUERTO RICO
[3] SAINT HELENA	[1] SEYCHELLES
[1] SOLOMON ISLANDS	[1] SOUTH AFRICA
[1] SPAIN	[9] UNITED STATES
[1] UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS	[1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

17 references found for *Agave sisalana*

Management information

[Brown, K., 2002. *Agave sisalana* Perrine. *Wildland Weeds Summer 2002*](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.se-eppc.org/wildlandweeds/pdf/Summer2002-Brown-pp18-21.pdf> [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. *A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers*.](#)

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

[Tunison, J. Timothy and Nicholas G. Zimmer, 1992. *Success in controlling localised alien plants in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park*.](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/duffy/book/1992_chap/23.pdf [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[World Wildlife Fund for Nature \(WWF\), 2006. *National list of naturalised invasive and potentially invasive garden plants*](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://wwf.org.au/publications/ListInvasivePlants/> [Accessed 26 July 2010]

General information

Badano, Ernesto I.; Pugnaire, Francisco I., 2004. Invasion of *Agave* species (Agavaceae) in south-east Spain: invader demographic parameters and impacts on native species. *Diversity & Distributions*. 10(5-6). September 2004. 493-500.

[Duffey, Eric. 1964. *The Terrestrial Ecology of Ascension Island, The Journal of Applied Ecology* 1 \(2\): 219-251.](#)

Summary: Images

Available from: http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/Duffey_1964_JAppEcol.pdf [Accessed 25 October 2009]

[Global Compendium of Weeds \(GCW\), 2007. *Agave sisalana* \(Agavaceae\)](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/gcw/species/agave_sisalana/ [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[Gray, Alan; Tara Pelembe and Stedson Stroud, 2005. *The conservation of the endemic vascular flora of Ascension Island and threats from alien species Oryx Vol 39 No 4 October 2005*](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.ascensionconservation.org.ac/pdf/13-G-Gray-Pelembe-Stroud.pdf> [Accessed 3 April 2010]

Hartemink, A. E.; Van Kekem, A. J., 1994. Nutrient depletion in Ferralsols under hybrid sisal cultivation in Tanzania. *Soil Use & Management*. 10(3). 1994. 103-107.

Hartemink, Alfred E.; Osborne, J. F.; Kips, P. A., 1996. Soil fertility decline and fallow effects in Ferralsols and Acrisols of sisal plantations in Tanzania. *Experimental Agriculture*. 32(2). 1996. 173-184.

Hartemink, Alfred E.; Wienk, Jan F., 1995. Sisal production and soil fertility decline in Tanzania. *Outlook on Agriculture*. 24(2). 1995. 91-96.

Long, Emma; Racey, Paul A., 2007. An exotic plantation crop as a keystone resource for an endemic megachiropteran, *Pteropus rufus*, in Madagascar. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*. 23(Part 4). JUL 2007. 397-407

Ortiz, Daniel Guillot; van der Meerz, Piet, 2006. A new potential invasive taxa to the flora iberica: *Agave sisalana* var. *armata* Trel. *Studia Botanica*. 25 2006. 139-141.



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Agave sisalana*

[Porembski, S., 2000. The invasibility of tropical granite outcrops \(?inselbergs?\) by exotic weeds. Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia, 83:131-137, 2000](#)

Summary: Available from: [http://www.rswa.org.au/content/work/journals/PDF/83\(3\)/v83\(3\)porembski.pdf](http://www.rswa.org.au/content/work/journals/PDF/83(3)/v83(3)porembski.pdf) [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[USDA-ARCS, 2010. *Agave sisalana* Perrine sisal hemp. The PLANTS Database \(<http://plants.usda.gov>, 27 September 2010\). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch?mode=sciname&keywordquery=Agave%20sisalana> [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[USDA-ARS, 2010. Taxon: *Agave sisalana* Perrine. National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - \(GRIN\) \[Online Database\]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?1735> [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[Varnham, K 2006. Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review JNCC Report No. 372](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.caymanbiodiversity.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/10/jncc372_web.pdf [Accessed 9 April 2010]