



AGAVE PARRYI VAR. TRUNCATA ARTICHOKE AGAVE

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: Many people have fallen in love with this agave after seeing the beautiful specimens on display at the Huntington Botanical Garden. The dense symmetrical form of this plant, combined with its wide, blue-gray leaves, set it apart from other varieties. At the end of its life cycle, this *Agave* produces a big, bold flower spike that is tall enough to stand above even mesquites and palo verdes.

DESCRIPTION: *Agave parryi* var. *truncata* is a small to medium-sized plant that offsets, forming clumps to 5 feet or more across. Individual plants vary in size from 2 feet to nearly 4 feet wide. This range depends on the amount of water applied, with heavily watered plants growing considerably larger. Plants have blue-gray or light gray leaves that are up to 1 foot long by 5 inches wide. Their leaf margins have dark brown teeth that are usually curved back towards the base of the plant. The terminal spine is about 1 inch long, dark brown and very stout. Tall, branched flower stalks grow 15 - 20 feet high. Flowers are pink or red in bud, opening to golden yellow. Although the flowering plant will die after blooming, its offsets will continue to grow.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: *Agave parryi* var. *truncata* is tolerant of desert soils, preferring soils with good drainage. This species has a moderately slow growth rate and will take several years to reach maturity and begin offsetting. For the most compact form, plant this agave in full sun. However, it will also grow in part shade exposures. It will respond to consistent supplemental irrigation during the summer. Depending on temperature, soil type, and age of plant; supplemental watering may be needed once every 2-4 weeks. This plant has been subjected to winter lows of about 15 degrees without any damage, and judging from its native habitat, it should be able to tolerate temperatures lower than that. To avoid frost damage in cold areas, harden plants off in the fall and keep them on the dry side through winter. Plants should be treated to prevent the Agave Weevil from attacking.

IDENTIFICATION: This variety of *Agave parryi* is more compact than var. *huachucensis*. The leaves are short and truncate (more square) than the longer and more lance-shaped leaves of var. *huachucensis*.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: *Agave parryi* var. *truncata* is best used as an accent in the transition or outer zone of a xeriscape. Allow sufficient room for maximum development of offsets. You can create an interesting effect by massing this agave; treating it almost as a ground cover. It also contrasts well with other plants, including *Asclepias subulata*, *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™, *Dalea pulchra*,



Leucophyllum laevigatum, *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™, and *Agave geminiflora*. *Agave parryi* var. *truncata* also grows well in pots.

PRECAUTIONS: The main problem to watch for is the Agave Snout Weevil, which may tunnel into the stems of plants. Also, be aware that placing these plants in any shade will prevent formation of the best, most compact form.

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ARTICHOKE
AGAVE
TRUNCATA

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ACCENT

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Also be careful not to over water plants. Young plants may need protection from rabbits and/or javelina, but older, more established plants do not. Remember that the flower stalk signals the death of that particular plant, but not death of the whole clump.



Agave parryi var. *truncata* in habitat in Mexico.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	3 Feet x 3 Feet
FLOWER COLOR	Golden yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Summer (Blooms once, then dies.)
EXPOSURE	Full sun, reflected heat, part shade
WATER	Very low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate - Slow
HARDINESS	10° F USDA 7
PRUNING	None
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, West Texas, South Texas, Houston



Agave parryi var. *truncata* growing at the Huntington Botanical Garden in Los Angeles, California.



For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
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