

# Artichoke Agave



A bright accent in the waterwise landscape or a unique groundcover in mass plantings. Architectural look in rock gardens, near stacked stone, and in pots.



## *Agave parryi v. truncata*

- **Use:** Artichoke agave resembles an artichoke, as its common name implies. This slow-growing, clumping agave is native to southern Chihuahua and northern Durango in Mexico. This variety of *Agave parryi* is more compact than its close relative *Agave parryi v. huachucensis*. Artichoke agave can be planted in containers and rock gardens, as an accent plant, or in masses or groupings with other desert natives. Once the main plant blooms it will perish and live on through the “babies”. This beautiful, yet tough and drought tolerant plant is an elegant choice for sunny, dry gardens and well-suited to containers.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Tolerates most soil as long as it is well-draining. It enjoys full sun and reflected heat but can also grow in partial shade. Artichoke agave is drought-resistant requiring very little water, but it does like some supplemental irrigation during the hot summer (every 10 days). Use slow release fertilizer for best results. Do not plant in low lying areas. Drainage is of utmost importance. Sandy soil a must. Planting in any red clay is a death sentence.
- **Growth:** Rosettes 2 to 4 ft. wide on 5 ft. wide clumps; flower spikes to 20 ft. tall.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 8b-11, Tender Perennial (hardy to 15 degrees, will need winter protection/ this is not a beginner plant)
- **Foliage:** Evergreen; It has short blue-gray leaves and grows two to three feet tall and two to four feet wide. It has dark reddish-brown teeth along its margins and a terminal spine.
- **Flower:** Blooms only once every 10 years. They eventually produces a tall fifteen to twenty-foot flower spike. Flowers initially appear pink or red then turn a golden yellow color. After blooming, the mother plant will die. However, this agave produces many offsets and tends to form large colonies.