

# *Agave sisalana*

## SISAL HEMP

### Agavaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** 2

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

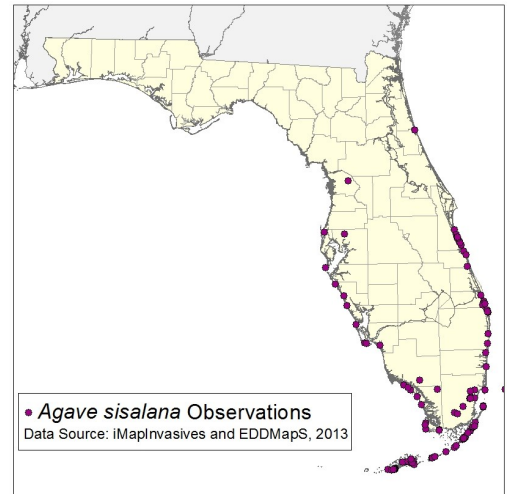
**IFAS Assessment**

North	OK
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 9B - 11

**Growth Habit:** Shrub

**Origin:** Mexico



John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Perennial shrub to 2 m tall with rigid, sword-like leaves extending from basal rosette. Leaves 10 cm wide and up to 1.5 m long with sharp dark brown spine at end, grey-green in color. A branched inflorescence forms atop a flower stalk 7-9 m tall with yellowish-green flowers to 7 cm wide. Fruit an oblong capsule with black seeds. Plants usually sterile and die after blooming once. Small plantlets (bulbils) form in inflorescence that fall to ground after flowering and form new plants.

**Habitat:** Coastal uplands, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, pine rockland, disturbed sites

**Comments:** Vouchered in many south and central counties, possible EDRR candidate where not well established since slow spreading. Bulbils are water dispersed.

**Florida Introduction Date:** 1836

**Control Methods:**

No specific recommendations available

**Useful Resources:**

Dave's Garden. 2013. PlantFiles: Sisal, *Agave sisalana*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/60666/>. Accessed on December 2, 2013.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Scurlock, J.P. 1987. Native Trees and Shrubs of the Florida Keys. Laurel & Herbert, Inc. Sugarloaf Key, Florida.