

Agave eggersiana



Candidate Species, native of
St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

12 month finding

- The U. S. Fish and Wildlife has determined that listing the Caribbean plant, *Agave eggersiana* as a threatened or endangered species is warranted under the Endangered Species Act, but that listing is precluded by other higher priority species. The “warranted but precluded” finding was published today in the Federal Register. The plant *Agave eggersiana* is now designated as a candidate species.



Agave eggersiana is a robust, perennial herb that can grow to about 21 feet tall.

Agave eggersiana yellow flowers are large and funnel or tubular shaped.



Asexual Reproduction

Agave eggersiana flowers do not produce seeds. Instead, small clones or bulbils develop from the base of its old flowers.

This is a common reproduction strategy in the genus *Agave*.





Bulbils or clones may also grow off the side of the spike growing on the base of modified leaves.

Dispersion: Small bulbils fall on the ground away from the mother plant or the spike may fall with bulbils attached.



**Older
inflorescence
with bulbils**



Spine at the
apex of the
leaf



A. eggersiana
does not
produce
off-shoots on
the ground
from the base
of the mother
plant.



Some Locations



Natural population behind the St. Croix Post Office in Gallows Bay.

Protestant Cay



Half Penny Bay

Plant stock
averages 7
meters tall.



East End Marine Park
Wild Agave eggersiana
growing along a road



South Shore, St. Croix

**Natural population of
Agave eggersiana on a
coastal cliff**





Salt River

**One of the
individuals
planted on
US Park Service
property**

Threats

Predation on leaf margins





When the flowers die, some gardeners cut the plant. This leaves the plant unable to develop bulbils and propagate.

This picture documents a landscape where a few bulbils surrounding the mother plant were mowed as part of regular landscape maintenance.



Conservation initiatives
already underway



Voluntary conservation efforts, federal financial and technical assistance and other partnership incentives can play a key role in protecting and restoring *Agave eggersiana*.



This Antilitter and Beautification Commission project includes planting *A. eggersiana*.



**National Park Service in St. Croix
helping propagate *A. eggersiana*.**

Adding the species to the candidate list will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies an opportunity to continue to work cooperatively with other entities motivated to conserve *Agave eggersiana*.

This may include financial and technical assistance, and the ability to develop conservation agreements that provide regulatory assurances to landowners who take actions to benefit this plant.



Annual reviews

The Service will review the status of the species annually, as it does with all candidate species, and will propose the species for protection when funding and workload priorities for other listing actions allow. Should the status of *Agave eggersiana* sufficiently improve as a result of the efforts to be undertaken, the Service could determine that the protection of the Endangered Species Act is not needed.

Credits

Photos

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