

Furcraea foetida

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Clade	: Monocots
Order	: Asparagales
Family	: Asparagaceae
Subfamily	: Agavoideae
Genus	: <i>Furcraea</i>
Species	: <i>F. foetida</i>



Furcraea foetida

Description

Plant with bulbils

Furcraea foetida is an **evergreen perennial subshrub**, stemless or with a short stem up to 1 m tall. The **leaves** are sword-shaped, 1-1.8 m long and 10–15 cm broad at their widest point, narrowing to 6–7 cm broad at the leaf base, and to a sharp spine tip at the apex; the margins are entire or with a few hooked spines. The **flowers** are greenish to creamy white, 4 cm long, and strongly scented; they are produced on a large **inflorescence** up to 7.5 m tall.

Uses:

Root: Mixed with gin and used for back pain. In Surinam, an infusion with sweet oil is drunk for treating syphilis.

Leaf: Decoction for a febrifuge. Leaves are used in a preparation with molasses or honey for children's obstinate colds. Macerated young leaves are used as a shampoo by the Guyana Patamona. Squashed young leaves are used as a soap by the Guyana Patamona.