

# A Future of Agave-Fueled Vehicles?

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In a [special issue](#) of *Global Change Biology – Bioenergy* devoted to the evaluation of agave as a biofuel feedstock, scientists report there is strong potential for this desert plant to fuel our vehicles.

The spiny Southwest succulent is best known as the raw material for tequila, but its usefulness as biofuel crop stems from its tolerance for arid conditions. Thus, it can be grown in dry places where it won't compete for space with food crops.

Furthermore, biomass yields for agave were found to be much higher than the yields from other biofuel crops like corn and sorghum. And the predicted warmer temperatures and higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere resulting from climate change may even enhance agave's productivity.

Although leftover biomass from tequila production can be used for biofuels, agave could be grown in other arid regions around the world where it was previously grown for its fibers. Reclaiming old agave fields in drought-stressed regions like the Sahel could also have a positive economic effect, boosting the economies of these poverty-stricken regions.

SOURCE: <http://www.southwestclimatechange.org/news/10609>