

The Agave Abrupta at Kew.....



Having heard that this plant was about to flower at Kew, I asked my friend, playwright and non-horticulturalist, Sheila Dewey, who lives near to Kew to go along and photograph it. She had obviously read the Kew website release: I quote: "The flower spikes are very large, reaching 10 metres or more. Its bright yellow-green flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds in the wild."

She emailed me the following:

I had expected huge yellow petals so I accosted a kindly gardener who was watering some nearby plants.

"Did I miss the flowers?" I asked, "or haven't they bloomed yet?"



"Those are the flowers!" he said.

"It takes a hundred years and that's what you get. Then the plant dies down and that's the end of it".

We agreed that the bees loved them, even if they didn't look much to us.

"We have lots of pollinated seeds", he said.

They're not planning to use them. He reckoned they probably had other *Agave Abrupta* plants lurking around Kew.

My friend and acupuncturist, Maureen McCann said that I was looking at it the wrong way. I was looking at it with human eyes, but that wasn't the environment the plant lived in.

I took a video of the bees, but it's a bit shaky, which is the environment I live in.



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