

Piet van der Meer



Piet van der Meer, born in 1950 in Noordwijk, in the Netherlands. Currently and since 1972 he is resident of Valencia (Spain), having worked in nurseries for vegetables, cut flowers and ornamental plants, and being, since 1997, owner of Vangarden Viveros S.L. (Valencia), specializing in ornamental plants trade.

Fourth generation of gardeners, by both father and mother. After completing studies and specializing in the cultivation of bulbs, I worked two years at the Botanical Garden of Rijks University, Leiden, and other nurseries in the Netherlands, Britain, France, Germany and Mexico.

Former professor at the Gardening School of the City of Valencia, author of numerous informative articles in journals on fruit growing and horticulture, such as *Agricola*

Vergel y Cuadernos de Fitopatología.

I have taken many courses on growing houseplants. Also I have a master on Gladiolus cultivation, organized by the Hispano-Dutch Chamber of Commerce.

Owner of a large collection of Agavaceae and Nolinaceae in Valencia, with over 500 species and varieties, Piteralandia, the result of extensive work undertaken in recent years, results of the study, acquisition and cataloguing of species grown / marketed in Spain, and other European countries (Italy and France), and as a result of several study campaigns on this group of succulent plants, realized in various countries, such as Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and the United States. I have had several talks on these matters for example in the Real Jardín Botánico de Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain) and the Jardín Botánico de Valencia (Valencia, Spain).

As a result of this extensive work of study and documentation I have published numerous scientific articles and monographs, mainly focusing on the Agavaceae and related genera family, cataloguing species grown / marketed in Spain, such as Agave, Yucca, Dracaena, Furcraea, Hesperaloe, Polianthes etc., while others papers focused on the study of non-native ornamental Flora, mainly from the families Agavaceae, Aloaceae, and Cactaceae (specifically the genus Opuntia) and dedicated to cataloguing items of plant varieties cultivated / marketed in Spain in the first half of the 20th century. One of the most important outcomes has been the description of new taxa, such as *Agave segurae*, *Agave x cavanillesii*, *Agave gonzaloi* and *Agave x rossellonensis*.