Yucca

Yuccas are bold evergreen accent plants with a wide range of textures and exceptional white flowers. They provide interest and focal points when combined with soft-textured shrubs like ruellia and leucophyllum. Yuccas require good drainage, full sun exposure, and are hardy in cold winters. They survive on minimal watering, yet benefit from monthly soakings during the summer. They are best suited for fall and winter planting.

Yuccas provide a southwestern flavor to the landscape, but careful planning must be done when choosing their location. Because of the sharp leaves and large size of some yuccas, avoid placing close to walkways, windows or patios. Yucca’s striking silhouette makes it a good choice for background plantings. Avoid removing the old leaves of yuccas; they provide protection to the plant from sunburn, cold and insects.

Yucca aloifolia
Spanish Bayonet.
This clustering garden yucca grows slowly to 10 feet in height and width. It has long, stiff, sharp, medium to deep green leaves. Summer blooms are large clusters of white with purple tinged lily-like flowers. The character of this plant makes it a good choice for Xeriscapes, groupings, specimen, or container plantings.

Yucca elata
Soaptree Yucca
This light green yucca has grass-like leaves and grows up to 20 feet in height and 10 feet in width. Soaptree yucca flowers in late spring with an exceptional 6 foot tall flowering stalk. It is used as a dramatic accent plant, and is probably the most widely planted of the yuccas. Its minute terminal spines, soft texture and cold hardiness give it a wide variety of uses in the landscape.

Yucca recurvifolia
Pendulous Yucca
Pendulous yucca is a fast growing, dark green clustering yucca that reaches 6 feet in height and width. This yucca flowers in early summer with delicate lily-like flowers borne on 4 foot stalks. Its flexible leaves are 2 feet long, and bend downward. It can help create a tropical effect in a Xeriscape and is useful as a large container plant.

Yucca rigida
Blue Yucca
Blue yucca is one of the most striking yuccas, with exceptional blue foliage and bold white flowers. It can reach 8 feet in height. Blue yucca is best displayed in a landscape against the green background of a mesquite tree or contrasting wall.