

Yuccas and Cacti



Banana yucca *Yucca baccata*



- Family: Agavaceae
- Native to southwest U.S. including N.M.
- Spikes are 2-3 feet tall and cream/yellow bloom may reach 4 feet.
- In our garden bloomed in 5th year after transplanting.
- Very low water-use.
- Full sun.
- Evergreen.
- Maintenance: none
- Edible flowers and fruit.
- May die after flowering.

Banana yucca *Yucca baccata*

Bloomed in 2007 (5 years after transplanting)



Redflower (false) yucca

Hesperaloe parviflora



- Family: Agavaceae
- Native to Texas.
- Long, narrow yucca-like leaves are 2-3 feet long and may spread out forming a 4-foot diameter plant.
- Not a true yucca.
- Low water-use.
- Full sun.
- Evergreen.
- Maintenance: Flower stalks can be cut back when dry or left standing. Remove dead leaves.
- Flowers attract hummingbirds.
- Tolerant of saline soils.

Red yucca *Hesperaloe parviflora*



Heavy bloom 2007

Soapweed yucca *Yucca glauca*



- Family: Agavaceae
- Native to southwest and Great Plains
- 3-4 foot flower spike
- Plant has many uses:
 - Soap – Roots
 - Baskets – leaves
 - Edible buds and flower stalks
- Plant's reproduction potential depends on pollination by the yucca moth.

Tree cholla *Cylindropuntia imbricata*



- Family: Cactaceae
- Native to south central U.S.
- Purple flowers
- Yellow fruits
- Can grow in excess of 6 feet high and nearly the same across
- Spiny
- Very drought tolerant.

Hedgehog cactus *Echinocereus sp.*



- Family: Cactaceae
- Native to southwest U.S.
- Crimson red flowers in early spring
- Edible red fruits (tuna)
- Tough spines

Prickly pear cactus

(*Opuntia* sp.)

