PLANT FACT SHEET

Yucca aloifolia L.

GENUS *Yucca* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf Yucca

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Fruit

The flowers are fried and eaten. They are also eaten in salads and sweetened and dried.
The ripe fleshy fruit is edible.
The tender flower stalks are boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 3-5 m tall. The leaves are sword shaped and have needle like spines at the ends. The leaves occur in dense rings around the stem. The leaves are 50 cm long. The old dry leaves hang down near the stem. The flowering cluster is cone shaped and 50 cm high. The flowers are bell shaped and creamy white. They often have purple streaks. Old plants can bend over and send up shoots forming clumps.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits moist and dry climates in open soils. It can grow in sandy soils and along shorelines. It is salt tolerant. It does best in a gritty, well drained soil. It needs full sun. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Geelong Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds, offsets or root cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

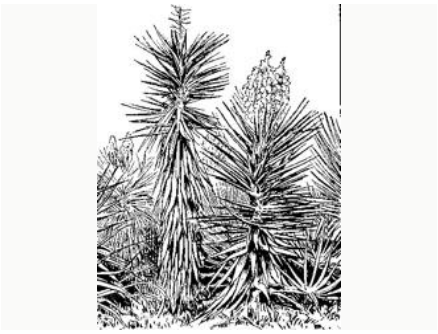
NOTES

There are about 40 Yucca species.
Also put in the family Agavaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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