PLANT FACT SHEET

Yucca elephantipes Hort.

GENUS *Yucca* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant Yucca

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Pods, Flowers, Shoots

The pod-like fruit is cooked and eaten.
The bitter anthers and ovaries are removed then the flower dipped in egg batter and herbs and fried.
The tender stem tips are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 8 m tall. It has a single trunk. This is thickened at the base. It spreads 3 m wide. The leaves are stiff and pointed. They are less than 1 m long. The flowering shoot is at the end of the plant. It is about 60 cm long and has branches with many small with flowers. The fruit is a fleshy capsule about 8 cm long. The flesh is green or white with many seeds. The seeds are small and black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Adelaide Botanical Gardens. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or by cuttings.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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