PLANT FACT SHEET

Yucca gloriosa L.

GENUS *Yucca* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Candle yucca

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit, Root, Stem

CAUTION: The fruit are purgative.
A starch is extracted from the rhizome.
The flowers are eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1.8-2.5 m high and spreads 1.2-1.8 m wide. The trunk is woody. The leaves form a ring at the ends of branches and are blue-green to dark green. The leaves are 60 cm long. They have spines at the tips. The flowers form a spike of bell-shaped flowers. These are creamy-white to pink and can be 1.8 m high. They are at the ends of branches and on a stout stem. They are 40-60 cm long. The fruit has 6 ribs. but does not split when dry.

HABITAT

It grows on sand dunes in Mediterranean regions. It can tolerate salt exposure. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 7-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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