



# Banana Yucca

*Yucca baccata*

Century Plant Family (Avaceae)

Zones: 5-11

Full Sun

Very Low Water

Location: Childrens Garden, Herb Garden, Visitor Center,  
Water-Wise Garden

The Banana Yucca is an evergreen plant that has long, slender, u-shaped leaves with a sharp, rough texture and threads across the margins. It grows to a height of 4-6 feet and can spread to 10 feet. This Yucca prefers rocky, sandy soil with good drainage. It can handle partial shade, but takes heat well and full sun. Maintenance is minimal and includes removal of old flower stalks.

The Banana Yucca is a Utah native, and just one of 40 yucca species. This plant was once placed in the same family as Agaves, but has since been moved to the Lily family. Often confused with agaves, which only bloom once, yuccas bloom each year. The flowers are waxy and bell-shaped, and grow on a 40-inch long stem. They are white in color with a red tinge.

Each species of yucca has a specific moth that is responsible for pollinating its flowers. The Banana Yucca relies on the female Pronuba Moth for pollination. In areas where this moth is absent, the plants will not produce seeds unless they are hand pollinated.

Baccata means fruited. The fruit on yucca are 4-6 inches long and are edible. The appearance of the fruit is where it gets its common name, as they look like short, fat, green bananas.

This plant is very useful - from its roots, to its leaves. Its fruits and leaves are used in food and beverages. Leaves are also used in basketry, and the fiber is used to make rope and clothing. The leaves have also been used by Southwest Indians to create paintbrushes for pottery. The roots are used as a natural soap.