

Botanical Name: Yucca whipplei

Common Name: Our Lord's candle, Chaparral yucca

Type of Plant: monocot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very distinctive clumping plant, with numerous stiff
narrow swordlike leaves arising from a basal rosette to form a rounded mound

Height 1' - 3' Spread equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun required; needs heat

Soil prefers dry, coarse, sandy or rocky areas; tolerates clay

Hardiness hardy (zones 12-23): thrives on hot dry slopes below 4000'

Morphology:

Leaves narrow, stiff, lance or swordlike, gray-green; 1'-3' long,
3/4" wide, terminating in a sharp, apical spine

Flowers creamy white, bell-shaped, very showy, 2"-3" long; borne
on an erect 6'-10' flower stalk; May - June (stalk can grow up to 14" a day!)

Fruit a capsule; 1 1/2"-2" long, oval, holding flat black seeds

Propagation: seed

Usage: a dramatic, small accent shrub, valued for its distinctive
clumping form; excellent for dry slopes, rock gardens, container plant; good in
desert, subtropical, Spanish-theme landscapes; spectacular when in flower

Landscape Care:

Watering extremely drought-tolerant after established; can
tolerate frequent irrigation if drainage is good

Fertilizing none

Pruning none

Pests/Diseases heart-rot where plant receives frequent overhead watering

Special Conditions plant dies out entirely after blooming

Origin: Southern CA & No. Baja CA Family: Liliaceae