
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO

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YUCCAS AROUND ALBUQUERQUE

• Yuccas with tall trunks:

Wide leaf: *Y. faxoniana* (often sold as *Y. torreyi*) (Dagger Tree, Palmera, Carne Rosanna)
Shallow root, so easy to transplant, but under black plastic the roots may cook when hot; rot easily when they sit wet, such as under plastic.

Medium leaf: *Y. torreyi*
Leaves narrower than *Y. paxoniana*, bloom stalk shorter (about 2 feet) and to side of plant; fruits large.

Narrow leaf, hairs: *Y. elata*
Long tap root, so it's hard to transplant. Once it's established, it's fine, but that takes a long time.

Wide short leaf (1 foot) branched trunk: *Y. brevifolia*
Joshua Tree; does well here, but slow to establish.

• Recommend:

Narrow leaf, no hairs, trunk: *Y. thompsoniana* or *rostrata*
Tiny serrations on the edge; easier to grow here in Albuquerque.

• Local types without trunk (or sometimes a short one):

Wide leaf: *Y. baccata* (Datil Yucca)
Shallow roots, easy to transplant.

Narrow leaf: *Y. glauca*
Long taproot and rhizomes, hard to transplant; easy to grow from seed.

• Eastern Yuccas, need regular watering:

Soft leaf, wide, no hairs: *Y. recurvifolia* (*pendula*)
Often form clumps; will form a short trunk with age.

Soft leaf, wide, hairs: *Y. filamentosa*
Blooms in spring; no trunk, but clusters.

Soft leaf, narrow, hairs: *Y. flaccida*
No trunk; will cluster; often variegated; often sold as *Y filamentosa*.

Stiff leaf, wide, trunk: *Y. aloifolia*
Blooms late (Aug.–Sept.); serrated edges on leaf; often clusters with many trunks.

Red-flowered "Yucca": *Hesperaloe parviflora*
Narrow but thick leaf, hairs; no trunk, but clusters; long bloom stalk, red blooms spring to frost; very hardy, but needs some extra water. In Santa Fe, give south-side warmth.