

Spanish Bayonet

GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: very arid, semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: low
Salinity/ppm	: very high (6000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -18°C

SHAPE

Type	: cacti, succulents
Height	: 2 m-6 m
Spread	: 1.5 m-4 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: white, pale yellow, pale purple
Size	: 30 cm
Period	: July - September
Smell	: scented, moderate, flower

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 3 cm - 5 cm

Yucca aloifolia has the common names Spanish Bayonet or Spanish Dagger. Its area of distribution lies in eastern Mexico, the southeastern USA and the West Indies, and its climatic zones range from Mediterranean to subtropical. The Yucca is a shrub that belongs to the palms or succulents and cacti. *Yucca aloifolia* grows between 2 and 6 metres high, with a spread of between 1.5 and 4 metres in width. It is slow-growing with an open crown. The evergreen lanceolate foliage is dark green to light blue in colour, while the leaves themselves are scattered and entire. The bloom appears in summer as a 30 to 60-cm panicle with single flowers about 5 cm across. Their colour is pale yellow, or white to pale purple. The fruits are conical capsules 3 cm in size, originally green and turning black with ripeness. Propagation is best by sowing and pricking, and by cuttings. *Yucca aloifolia* is heat- and drought-resistant. It has low irrigation requirements and withstands high salinity. In Arriyadh, it can be found growing successfully in many locations. In landscape design, it can be recommended for urban areas such as public open spaces, park planting, in pedestrian precincts and in private parks. In its use, it must be considered that the lanceolate leaves have very sharp endings so it should be planted out of people's reach. This Yucca will be effective as a specimen, dominant or grouped plant. Even in rock or steppe gardens, appealing compositions can be created. *Yucca aloifolia* 'Jewel' has a lighter foliage.

