

# 'COLOR GUARD' YUCCA

## *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard'



### Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Zone: 5 to 10
- Height: 4.00 to 8.00 feet
- Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
- Bloom Color: Creamy white
- Bloom Time: June to July
- Flower: Showy
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Dry to medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Attracts: Butterflies
- Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Air Pollution

### Culture

Tough as nails, yuccas are the ideal plant for a no-maintenance garden. Their sword-like foliage radiates upward from a central crown, remaining upright all year round except in the heaviest snows. It combines nicely with all kinds of mounded foliage plants. 'Color Guard' bears bright creamy-yellow leaves with green edges. During the cooler months of fall and winter, the light leaf centers take on rose overtones. From early to midsummer, spectacular sturdy flower stalks rise 3-4 feet tall from the center of the plant. The individual bell-shaped, creamy white flowers are 2-3 inches long and dangle from the stems like earrings. Easily grown in light, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerant of poor, sandy soils, heat, drought, and salt spray. Surprising tolerance for some part shade. Can be propagated easily from basal offsets.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Yucca filamentosa*, commonly called Adam's needle, Spanish bayonet, yucca and needle palm, is a virtually stemless broadleaf evergreen shrub (though it looks more like a perennial than a shrub) that is native to beaches, sand dunes and fields from South Carolina south to Florida and Mississippi. It has escaped cultivation and extended its original range north into New England. It features a basal rosette of rigid, sword-shaped, spine-tipped green leaves up to 30" long and to 4" wide with long curly threads along the margins. Leaves form a foliage clump to 2-3' tall. In late spring, a flowering stalk rises from the center of each rosette, typically to 5-8' tall, but infrequently to 12' tall, bearing a long terminal panicles of nodding bell-shaped creamy white flowers. Fruits are elliptical dehiscent capsules. Will form a small colony over time from basal offsets. 'Color Guard' Yucca has creamy-yellow leaves with green edges.

### Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Deer tend to avoid this plant.

### Garden Uses

Borders. Dry garden areas. Dry slopes. Adds architectural height. Also may be grown in large containers. Suitable for seaside gardens or areas which receive road salt runoff.

*Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder*