

RED YUCCA

by Glenda Marsh, Somervell Co. Master Gardener

Watch closely and you may well see a hummingbird at your blooming red yucca because its flowers are full of nectar! Requiring very little to no maintenance, this evergreen scrub has flowers that can last 30 weeks per year beginning in April and continuing through October

Got deer problems? Fortunately, those pesky deer almost never eat this plant, which lives on rainwater and can be 3 to 4 feet tall. Red yucca is a perennial and hardy in our zone 7 as it tolerates full sun and is considered drought tolerant - just what we need in our area! It should be spaced at least 2 to 4 feet apart.

Colorful coral blooms with pale yellow on the inside are the most frequent but solid yellow varieties are also available. Hummers will visit both!

Beware of a few prickly items: the plant has spines with sharp edges, so BE CAREFUL when handling it (i.e. should you want to move it). Some people may be sensitive to the plant and handling may cause skin irritation or allergic reactions and, like any plant, the pollen also may cause allergic reactions. If you have kids or grandkids, parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. So NO snacking on this plant!

Save the seed pods and you can direct sow them outside in the fall or sow indoors before the last frost. You can also propagate them by dividing rhizomes, tubers, corms or bulbs (including offsets).

Take a look at the red yuccas as you drive up and down Highway 67. We have some great examples of this hardy plant right in front of several of our businesses here in Glen Rose!

Good references: www.davesgarden.com

Easy Gardens for North Central Texas by Steve Huddleston & Pamela Crawford