

ADAM'S NEEDLE

*Yucca filamentosa*¹

- Native to Southeast America.
- Soil: Grows in dry, sandy soils
- Sun: Prefers full sun but will tolerate light shade.
- Water Requirements: Drought tolerant
- Height: 3 – 4 feet
- Spread: 3 – 15 feet
- Uses: Adam's Needle is a drought-tolerant, ornamental used as corner accents; best planted in open areas. It is best planted away from homes and fences. The flowers are used for corsages.
- Propagation: Although hummingbirds visit the flowers, yuccas are pollinated by small, white Yucca moths (*Tegeticula yucasella* and related species) with which they have a special plant-insect mutualism. At night, the fragrant flowers attract the female moth that feeds on the nectar. She then rolls pollen from the flowers into a ball that is three times the size of her head and carries the pollen ball to the next flower. There, she first lays eggs inside the immature ovary and then deposits the pollen on the flower's stigma insuring that seeds will form to feed her progeny. Because the larvae mature before they are able to consume all of the seeds (60 to 80% of the seeds remain viable), the plants are able to reproduce as well.



The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences [Fact Sheet FPS-615](#), "*Yucca filamentosa*," states: "Adam's Needle is a slow growing native plant found scattered through the woods in the southeastern United States. Leaves appear as though they have been shaved because leaf margins bear curved, filamentous threads of leaf tissue. The leaf terminates in a sharp spine. Plants stay small, growing no more than about 3-feet tall. In summer, a tall, showy flower spike emerges from the center of the plant and displays prominently for several weeks."



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