



Banana Yucca *Yucca baccata*

Datil Yucca, Spanish Bayonet, Blue Yucca

Description:

Height: 4' - 6' tall

Flowers: 15" - 18"

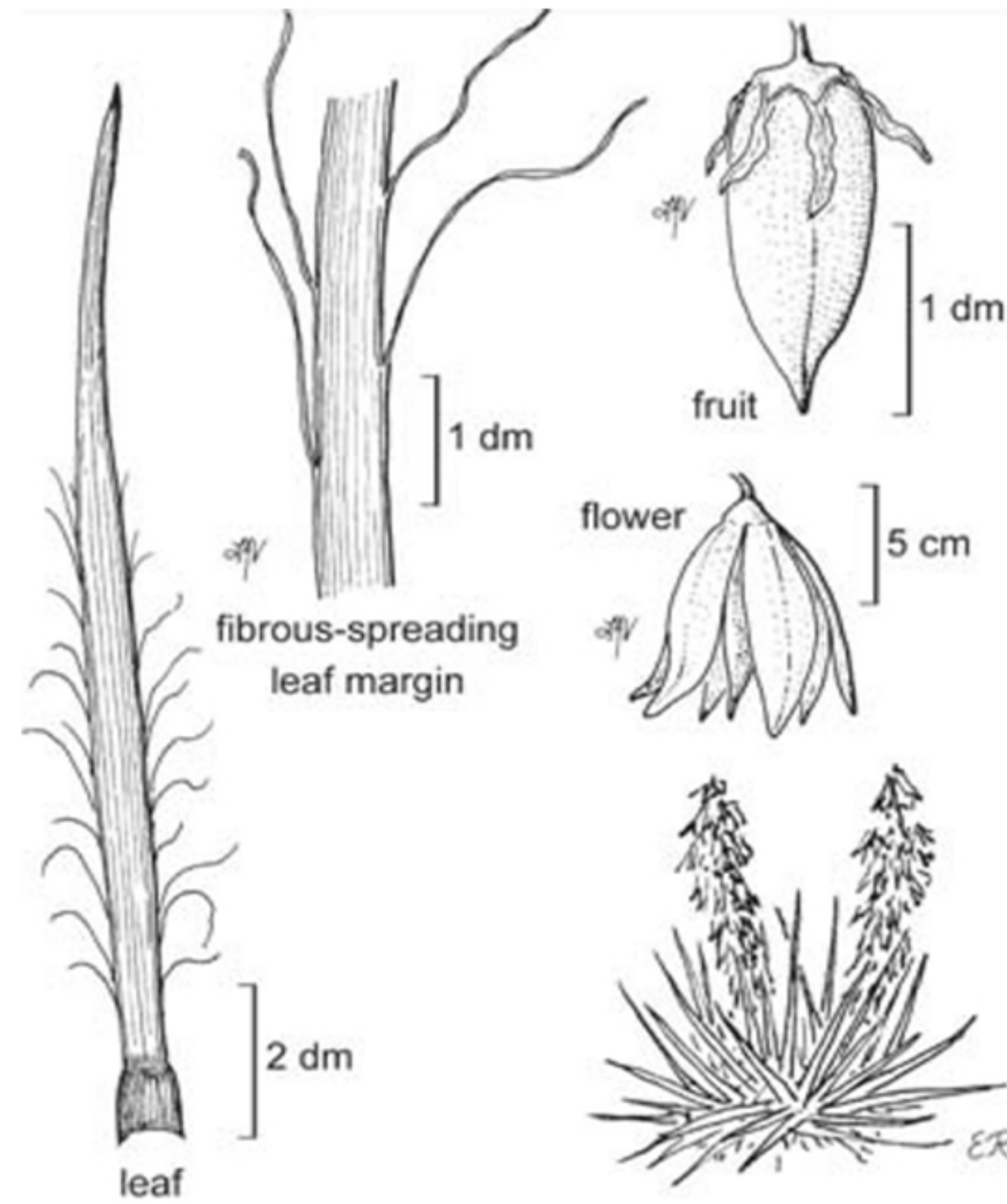
Fruit: 2" - 3"

Flowering: Early Summer

Uses:

Several parts of the plant can be used. The leaf blades can be woven into baskets, threads, brushes, ropes, and needles. The back of the leaves can be removed, reduced into fiber, and made into clothes. The root and stems can be used as soap for hair, the body, and washing clothes. The soap is made by crushing the roots, soaking them in water, which, when released, create suds for soap.

Yucca Baccata is also edible; the fruits are large, fleshy, sweet, and considered tasty. They can be baked in ovens



and formed into cakes or kept dried for later use. If the fruit is dissolved in water, it can be a delicious drink. Some tribes also used the flowers as vegetables and roasted them. If the flowers are pounded, they can turn into a powder and boil. The flowers have been one of the main ingredients as flavorings in soups.

Native Cultures:

The main tribes that have used the Yucca Baccata are the Apache, and Navajo Tribes.

Habitats:

The Yucca baccata lives in dry deserts and some of the deserts it can be found in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas. It thrives in dry areas and can live in long drought.

Pollinators:

The only pollinator the plant has is the Yucca Moth also called the Nocturnal Pronuba Moth.



Flowering:

Yucca baccata tends to be flowering in the early spring and needs tons of sunlight. The flowers grow from 15 to 18 inches and are a light purple color.

Resources:

Illustration: William J. Hess & Bruce G. Baldwin 2022, Yucca baccata var. baccata, in Jepson Flora Project (eds.) Jepson eFlora, Revision 10, https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=67839, accessed on November 16, 2023. Yucca baccata var. baccata (berkeley.edu)

Photographs: Robbe Tillotson