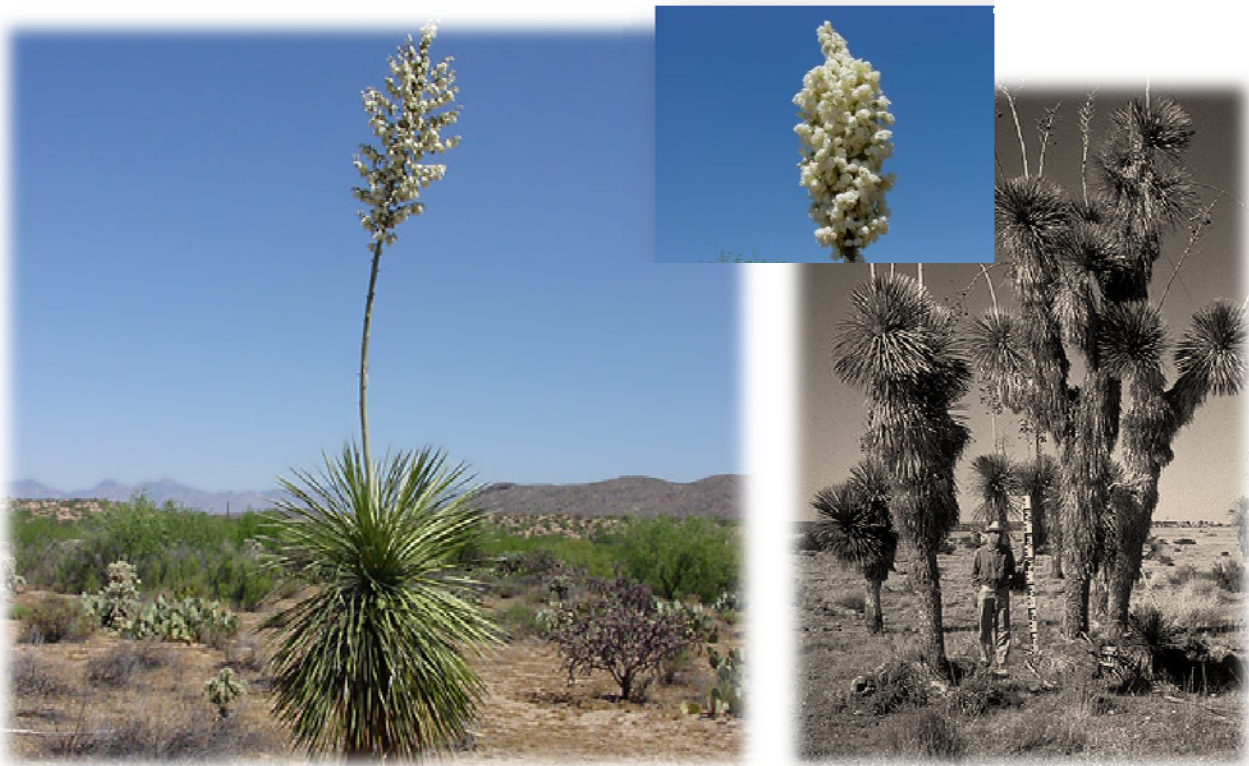


Botanical Name: *Yucca elata*

Common Name: Soaptree Yucca



Family: Agavaceae

Native Distribution: Arizona to Texas (high deserts) and N Mexico

Plant Size: Varies by sub-species, can reach 30' tall, but normally 6-15' high and wide, perennial

Flowers: Panicles with creamy white to whitish-green bell-shaped flowers, can have many panicles at a time, fragrant, blooms sporadically in early summer

Foliage: Thin, flexible, up to 3' long and ¼ " wide, dull green, thin white, smooth margins, filiferous at base, remain attached after death

Site Preferences: Full sun

Landscape Uses: Specimen (especially among grasses), mixed gardens.

Other Stuff:

- Flower is the state flower of New Mexico.
- Slow growing.
- Branches from the base, not the axils.
- Only one flower emerges from each branch clump per season.
- Has both a tap root and fibrous surface roots.
- Requires deep, well draining soil—not in gravel, best in flats.
- Difficult to transplant, but easily propagates from seed.
- Little to no maintenance—best with old, dry leaves left in place to protect stems.
- Derives its common name from the soapy material in its roots and trunk.
- Fibrous leaves used by Native Americans for baskets, belts, sandals, cloth, rope, and mats.