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Yucca gloriosa

[Synonyms : *Yucca recurvifolia*]

SPANISH DAGGER is a succulent evergreen shrub. Native to south-eastern North America it has scented sometimes red-flushed outside, creamy-white flowers.

It is also known as Adam's needle, Handsome yucca, *Iuca* (Portuguese), *Juka nádherná* (Czech), Mound lily, Moundlily yucca, Palmetto royal, Palmetto royal of the Florida keys, *Palmelilje* (Danish), *Palmlilie* (German), *Palmlilja* (Swedish), Palm lily, Palm lily, *Pracht-Yucca* (German), Roman candle, Spanish bayonet, Tree lily, *Yucca* (French).

The flowers are fragrant at night and in their natural habitat they are pollinated by a species of night moth.

Warning – the roots are poisonous.

Gloriosa is Latin (glory, glorious) meaning 'superb or glorious'.

Spanish dagger is believed to have been introduced to Britain in 1550. Records indicate that it must have been many years before any flowers bloomed in that alien climate on the few specimens imported – so much so apparently that it was viewed as a remarkable and exciting event when it did happen. The first to flower may have been that in the Essex garden of a Mr. William Coys in 1604.