

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PMAGA0B026

Data Sensitivity: Yes

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Yucca angustissima* var. *kanabensis* (McKelvey) Reveal
COMMON NAME: Kanab Yucca, Fineleaf Yucca
SYNONYMS: *Yucca kanabensis* McKelvey, *Yucca angustissima* ssp. *kanabensis*
(McKelvey) Hochstaetter
FAMILY: Agavaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: (McKelvey) Reveal, 1977, Intermountain Flora 6:
534. *Yucca kanabensis* McKelvey, 1947, *Yuccas* Southw. U.S. 2: 122-126, map 4, pl. 48-49.

TYPE LOCALITY:

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 10 genera in Agavaceae. The species *angustissima* is 1 of 30 in the genus *Yucca* and var. *kanabensis* is 1 of 3 varieties in *Y. angustissima*. The other variety found in Arizona is *Y. a.* var. *angustissima*. (USDA PLANTS 2008).

DESCRIPTION: Based on the description from eFloras (2008), *Y.a.* var. *kanabensis* forms small to extremely large colonies, that are caulescent to short-procumbent. Stems are short-procumbent, 0.1-0.4 m, however 2.0-3.5 m (6.6-11.5 ft) with peduncle and inflorescence. The leaf blade is plano-convex or plano-keeled, 45-80(-150) x 1.2-2.0 cm, stiff but somewhat flexible, smooth abaxially, and slightly roughened adaxially. Inflorescences is racemose, 10-20 dm (39.4-78.7 in); the peduncle measures 1.0-1.5 m (3.3-5 ft). The flowers measure 5.5-6.5 x 2.3-4.0 cm (2.2-2.6 x 0.9-1.6 in). The tepals are often tinged pink or brown, and are elliptic to orbiculate shaped. Filaments measure 2.5-2.8 cm; anthers 5-6 mm; the pistal 3-3.5 x 0.7-0.9 cm, and are oblong-cylindric; and the style is 5-8 mm long. The seed capsules are moderately constricted, measuring 6.5-7.5 cm (2.6-3 in).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Color photo (Craig Howe 2000-2005, http://www.bennyskaktus.dk/Y_kanab.htm)

TOTAL RANGE: Distribution includes the states of Arizona and Utah.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Found in Coconino and Mohave counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial shrub, subshrub.

PHENOLOGY: Flowering occurs from spring to early summer (eFloras 2008).

BIOLOGY: Two common pollinators of this plant, the yucca moths *Tegeticula altiplanella* and *Tegeticula superficiella*, visit the flowers during spring and early summer (Addicott 1998, also in PCDL 2008). The moth purposefully transfers the pollen from the stamens of one plant to the stigma of another, while at the same time lays an egg in the flower; the larva of the moth then eats some of the developing seeds, but far from all (M & G Irish 2000, in Answers.com accessed 2008).

HABITAT: Collected from the Esplanade formation, with much rock exposed (SEINet 2008). They can be found in sandy places of juniper – pinyon pine – oak woodlands, and desert canyon hillsides (eFloras 2008).

ELEVATION: From 4590 – 6230 ft (1400–1900 m). (eFloras 2008).

EXPOSURE: Collected on SW slopes of ca. 10%. (SEINet 2008).

SUBSTRATE: Sandy areas; cryptogamic soil.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Juniper – pinyon pine – oak woodlands (eFloras 2008). Associated species include: *Agave utahensis* var. *utahensis* (Utah Agave), *Arctostaphylos* (Manzanita), *Coleogyne ramosissima* (blackbrush), *Ephedra* (jointfir), *Hilaria* (curly-mesquite), *Muhlenbergia* (muhly), *Nolina microcarpa* (sacahuista), *Opuntia polyacantha* (plains pricklypear), *Oryzopsis* = *Achnatherum* (ricegrass), *Pinus edulis* (twoneedle pinyon), *Psilostrophe* (paperflower), *Quercus turbinella* (Sonoran scrub oak), *Shepherdia* (buffaloberry), *Sporobolus* (dropseed) (SEINet, 2008).

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS: Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)
[Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1993)]

OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: This plant can be found in cultivation for use in landscaping.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Current population surveys are needed along with life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: NPS – Grand Canyon National Park.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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