



Photo: by Glenn Vargas of the California Academy of Sciences

Common Name: Our Lord's Candle (Yucca)

Scientific Name: Yucca whipplei

Kumeyaay Name: Aakull

Description: The leaves are long, thin, pointy, and very stiff. In the spring it has a very tall stalk that grows up from the center and blooms with lots of small flowers. It also produces a fruit.

The Kumeyaay used this plant for its fiber. They would make a twine they could use for weaving or to make nets. They also would roast the stalk to eat. They would boil the flower blossoms to remove the bitterness and then would eat them.

(From: *The Kumeyaay, Secrets of the Trail*, by Roberta Labastida, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego, CA, 1996)

You can read about this plant in *Indians of the Oaks* on pages: 12, 31, and 58

In the book, Kwee-tahk and his family cut the yucca stalks and roasted them to eat. Kwee-tahk and Pion made cord from the fibers in the leaves and used it to fasten the poles and hold the branches on the hut they were building.

By Christopher