

My Yucca Plant Dilemma

By Mary I. Kanyha

Will someone in my paradise help me? I need to know how to get rid of yucca plants and keep them from having hundreds of new "babies." For the past four years, I have been out in front of the entrance to my estate every week, digging out two gallon buckets of new yucca plants. This continues even though all the plants and their bulbs have previously been dug out. However, from underneath the ground, new plants continue to grow. Now the problem is how to get rid of these obstinate tiny plants.

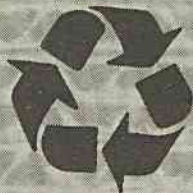
Why were yuccas planted on 20 feet of land on both sides of the driveway? Here is the story: This house at 218 Salter Path Road was built in 1978, when our paradise had only two hired police and the town depended on the county sheriff's deputies for protection. Well, our house was robbed. All the pots and pans, the kitchen silverware, a shower curtain and the drapes, wide enough to cover three Anderson windows, were taken. Thinking how to solve the problem of being burglarized again and perhaps losing our 15-inch TV or our battery-operated radio, I decided to make it more difficult for any culprit wanting items for a camp or a starter home. The idea of having 20 feet of yucca plants on each side of the driveway seemed like a good one. It was at first very exciting because up North no one grows yucca plants.

We made a gate by welding a three-foot metal piece in the middle of four-inch thick lumber so that a pick-up truck could not break through it. Every night we locked the gate.

Through the years, the yucca plants were beautiful with their big white flowers. They were truly awesome. But then, the plants grew out of control and there were dead units on each one. When I went near them to photograph, I would get sharp cuts on my arms, and when I was cutting the grass alongside them, they cut my legs. Somehow, it was as if they purposely did not want me to go anywhere near them.

I followed the instructions of our County Extension Agency by treating the area with brush and bush spray to no avail. The plants still came up through the soil. I received instructions from people on the Internet. One suggested I dig out the newly grown yucca and pour Clorox into that spot. Another reply was to pour concentrated Roundup into the hole where the plant was dug. Now every week, after digging out the sprout of a new yucca plant, I pour stump remover into the hole. Roundup doesn't work, brush and vine killers do not work and covering the area where the plant existed with a plastic cover does not work.

One reply said: "These are very tough plants! Dig up as much of the plant as possible weekly, and then dig some more to find all of the roots." Even following these measures, I am still digging these nasty plants up every time they send up another little sprout. This has been an ongoing weekly venture for the past four years. Can anyone suggest how to eradicate these hardy, drought and heat tolerant plants?



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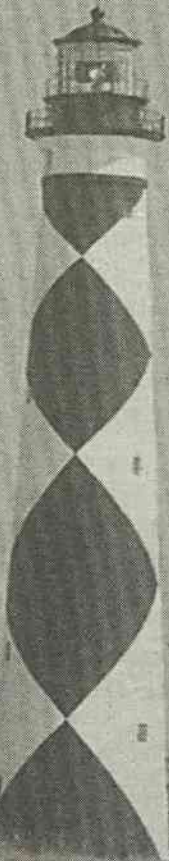
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