

PLANT OF THE MONTH—MAY 2011

Joshua Tree—*Yucca brevifolia*

*This protected species of the Mojave Desert is a member of the Agave family. The Joshua tree should not be confused with the Mojave yucca, (*Yucca schidigera*). Although a close relative, the Joshua Tree can be distinguished by its shorter, thinner leaves.*

Both yuccas can be seen growing together throughout the deserts of the southwest.

Spotting the Joshua tree usually means you're in the Mojave Desert, but they are also found in a few areas of the Sonoran

Desert and foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.

At maturity, trees can reach 30 feet in height with large, flowering clusters of a greenish-white color. Established trees do not require watering and can be a beautiful complement to any desert landscaped yard.



This Joshua Tree was relocated from a construction project site to the new Mojave Water Agency Headquarters in Apple Valley