



JOSHUA TREE

**TOWN
OF
YUCCA VALLEY**

**BEFORE YOU
REMOVE NATIVE
VEGETATION**

**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
“PROTECTED
NATIVE PLANTS”**



MOJAVE YUCCA
Yucca schidigera

DESERT NATIVE PLANT PROTECTION

The Town of Yucca Valley Development Code contains specific regulations with respect to desert native plant protection. Compliance with the Native Plant Protection and Management ordinance helps promote the continued health of the Town's abundant and diverse plant resources by not allowing the indiscriminate removal, and to further promote the protection of native plants and their relationship to the identity of the Town.

Regulated Desert Native Plants:

- Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*)
- Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*)
- All Joshua Trees
- California juniper (*Juniperus californica*)
- Pinon Pine (*Pinus monophylla*)
- Additional plants protected or regulated by the California Desert Native Plants Act.

JUNIPER

Juniperus californica



Permit Required: Prior to the removal, relocation, or trimming of the native plants as listed above, a Native Plant Permit is required. Trimming of leaf (needle) points to avoid injury does not require a permit.

Findings for Removal: Unless exempt, the removal of protected native plants shall be based on the one or more of the following findings:

- The location of the plant or its dripline interferes with an allowed structure, sewage disposal area, paved area or other approved improvements;
- The location of the plant or its dripline interferes with planned street improvements or an approved access;
- Hazardous to pedestrian or vehicular travel or safety;
- The plants interferes with or is causing extensive damage to utility services, facilities, roadways, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, pavement, sewer lines;
- The condition or location of the plant is adjacent to and in such close proximity to an existing or proposed structure that the plant has or will sustain significant damage;
- No other alternative exists for the development of the land when the removal of specimen size Joshua Trees is requested. Specimen size trees are defined as meeting 1 or more of the following criteria:
 1. A circumference measurement equal to or greater than fifty (50) inches measured at 4 feet above grade.
 2. Total tree height of 15' or greater.
 3. Trees possessing a bark-like trunk.
 4. A cluster of 10 or more individual trees, of any size, growing in close proximity to each other.

Exceptions:

- Timber operations conducted under the Forest Practice Act of 1973.
- Removals on some government lands.
- Removals by Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection.
- Removals required by other laws.
- Immediate threats to public safety.
- Fire hazard reduction programs approved by County Fire.
- Removals approved by the County Agriculture Commissioner.

Adoption Program:

To assist in the preservation of native plants that would have otherwise been destroyed, the Town has an adoption program for those interested citizens in adopting Yuccas and Joshua Trees. Those interested individuals wanting to be placed on the Native Plant adoption list should send a letter to the Community Development Department with their name, address, phone, an email address if available, and the desire number of plants and sizes.



PINON PINE
Pinus monophylla

MOJAVE YUCCA
Yucca schidigera



PINON PINE
Pinus monophylla



OUR LORDS CANDLE
Yucca whipplei