



#### Caption

Rattlesnake Master

*Eryngium yuccifolium*

*The common name*, rattlesnake master or button snake-root, refers to a former use of this plant as a treatment for rattlesnake bite. The plant is an odd member of the Carrot family that resembles a yucca or some other desert plant. The entire plant is bluish or greyish green, and hairless. Growing to 2-6 feet, it has a stout central stem that is unbranched, except near the flower cluster. The stiff, long and strap-like leaves grow near the plant base. They were used by Native Americans to make sandals.

The whitish green prickly balls contain numerous small white flowers. These flowers have a sickly honey-like scent in bright sunlight. The blooming period is mid- to late summer.

The flowers attract bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, and plant bugs. Their spiny leaves make walking through clumps of these plants difficult, and also make them undesirable to grazing mammals.

#### Resources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g500>

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/rattlesnakex.htm>

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=ERYU](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ERYU)