



***Eryngium yuccifolium* – Rattlesnake Master**

COMMON NAME: Rattlesnake Master, Button Snakeroot

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eryngium yuccifolium* - from Greek for “prickly plant” with yucca-like leaves.

FLOWER COLOR: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: July and August

SIZE: 3-4 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: The flowers are borne in spherical, thistle-like heads about 1” in diameter. The leaves are stiff and 1-4” wide, but sometimes 3 ft. long, with small prickles along the edges. They are parallel-veined, much like leaves of yucca.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Requires sun. Tolerant of a broad range of soil types and moisture levels, but does not like wetter sites.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Leaves, flower heads and fruit cluster are distinctive, easily recognizable, and add an interesting textural quality to a prairie garden. The yucca-like leaves and globe-like flower heads are very unusual in the carrot family, to which this species belongs. The common name comes from the belief that the roots could be used to heal rattlesnake bites.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well while the plant is becoming established. Be sure to plant in a well-drained soil in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Minnesota to New Jersey, Florida, Texas and Kansas. In Wisconsin it is mostly in the southern part of the state.

COMPANION PLANTS: Big bluestem, heath aster, smooth aster, shooting star, flowering spurge, alum root, purple prairie clover, prairie phlox, yellow coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, prairie dropseed, needle grass.