



Eryngium yuccifolium Rattlesnake master

- **Native plant:** Deep rooted, erect perennial. Carrot family.
- **Pollinators:** The globelike blossoms attract numerous small native bees and syrphid (hover) flies. The thick hollow stems break down slowly and prove nest sites for tunnel-nesting bees. Host plant for rattlesnake master borer moth (*Papaipema eryngii*), an endangered species.
- **Bloom period:** Oklahoma: May-August
- **Exposure/soil:** Sun to partial shade. Moist soil.
- **Environment/range:** It is well adapted to eastern Oklahoma conditions and can be found in native prairies. On the Kerr Ranch it grows in the Rails-to-Trails roadside prairie.
- **Landscaping:** Place it carefully in the landscape since it is very unique looking. Think specimen planting rather than large groupings. It would be excellent to include in a native prairie restoration project or in rough areas of a yard.
- **Value to livestock:** Here at the Kerr Center it has been found in pastures containing fescue/bermuda. It is not common in grazed pastures on the ranch, most often being found in remnant prairies and road ditches. This is probably due to cattle eating the nutritious new growth. It is considered a decreaser (i.e. it is readily eaten by livestock and therefore decreases) on overgrazed pastures.
- **Propagation:** *Eryngium* spreads by seed and rootstock. The seed stems are 24-36 inches tall. Cold-moist stratify seeds at 40 degrees for 2 months.

IMPRESSIONS: *I love the name of this plant. Not only is the name memorable, but the plant is unusual looking. It looks like it wants to be yucca plant with its succulent looking leaves; however, the leaves also have short spines scattered on the edge. The flower structure draws attention to the plant since it resembles a thistle. It certainly draws in pollinators!*

I have collected seed from plants on the ranch. When removing the seeds, it would be a good idea to wear gloves, preferably leather. Note: Raking the seeds, with their sharp ends, off of the seed heads with your thumb can lead to sore thumbs (I know).



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NATIVE BEES



MOTHS



FLIES

