



Milkweed Identification



Milkweed Identification

COMMON MILKWEED *Asclepias syriaca*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 8.5 feet (2.6 m) tall.

FLOWERS

Varies from white through pinkish and purplish.

LEAVES

Up to 9.8 inches (25 cm) long, 4.7 inches (12 cm) wide and grow opposite.

HABITAT

Poor, dry soils, sandy soils - direct sunlight.

LOCATIONS

Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, most states east of the Rocky Mountains.



Milkweed Identification

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED *Asclepias tuberosa*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3.4 feet (1 m) tall.

FLOWERS

Varies from yellow through orange (most common) and reddish.

LEAVES

Up to 4.7 inches (12 cm) long, 1.2 inches (3 cm) wide and grow in a spiral arrangement.

HABITAT

Favors dry, sand or gravel soil. Requires full sun.

LOCATIONS

Central, Southeastern, Eastern states, Ontario and Quebec.



Milkweed Identification

SWAMP MILKWEED *Asclepias incarnata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 5 feet (1.5 m) tall.

FLOWERS

Early to mid-summer varies from white to pink to mauve and darker shades of purple.

LEAVES

Up to 6 inches (15 cm) long, 1.5 inches (4 cm) wide and are narrow with the ends tapering into points. They grow oppositely arranged.

HABITAT

Prefers moisture retaining to damp soils in full sun to partial shade and typically found growing wild near ponds, lakes, streams or along ditches.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across the United States and Canada from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Maine South to Florida and Texas and west to Nevada and Idaho.



Milkweed Identification

OVAL/DWARF MILKWEED *Asclepias ovalifolia*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 20 inches (50.8 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

White or cream colored with white, greenish white or pale purplish white lobes.

LEAVES

Up to 3 inches (7.62 cm) long, 1.5 inches (4 cm) wide and are oval in shape and grow opposite each other in intervals along the stem.

HABITAT

Prefers full or partial sun, dry conditions, sandy soil, but other types of soils are tolerated if water drainage is good.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across Canada from Ontario to British Columbia. Can also be found in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.



Milkweed Identification

SHOWY MILKWEED *Asclepias speciosa*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 6.5 feet (200 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Pale pink through pinkish purple.

LEAVES

Up to 9.8 inches (25 cm) long, 4 inches (10 cm) wide and are oval in shape and grow opposite each other.

HABITAT

Found in coarse, medium and fine soils ranging from sunny and dry to moist in savannas, prairies, road-sides, old fields and meadows. Not shade tolerant, must be in open spaces.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across Canada from Ontario to British Columbia. Can also be found in Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.



Milkweed Identification

WHORLED MILKWEED *Asclepias verticillata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3 feet (91.4 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

White to greenish white.

LEAVES

Up to 4 inches (10 cm) long, thin that are whorled along the stem of the plant.

HABITAT

Dry sandy, clay or rocky soil. Low water requirement. Prefers sunny to partial shade.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across Canada from Ontario to Saskatchewan. Can also be found in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Maine, Montana, North and South Carolina, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Wyoming.



Milkweed Identification

GREEN MILKWEED *Asclepias viridiflora*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 2.95 feet (90 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Greenish white.

LEAVES

Arranged in opposite pairs and vary in shape depending on the habitat. They can range from long and narrow, to broad and oval.

HABITAT

Dry sandy or rocky soil, but can also be found in wetter locations like marshes.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across Canada from Ontario to Saskatchewan. Can also be found from Connecticut to Georgia, and from Arizona to Montana. Endangered in Florida and threatened in New York.



Milkweed Identification

BLUNT-LEAVED MILKWEED *Asclepias amplexicaulis*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3.3 feet (100 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Greenish tinged with purple or rose.

LEAVES

Up to 6 inches (15 cm) long and 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide.

HABITAT

Prefers sandy soils in open wooded areas, roadsides and old fields and meadows.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across Canada from Ontario to Manitoba. Can also be found in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin and West Virginia.



Milkweed Identification

ANTELOPE HORN MILKWEED *Asclepias asperula*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 2 feet (61 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Greenish yellow with maroon highlights.

LEAVES

Up to 8 inches (20 cm) long, narrow and irregularly grouped. The leaves are often folded length-wise.

HABITAT

Prefers rocky or sandy soils of prairies, pastures, plains, hillsides, brushland and woodlands.

LOCATIONS

Widely found across the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico.



Milkweed Identification

POKE MILKWEED *Asclepias exaltata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 6 feet (182 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

White with lavender to green tinges.

LEAVES

Up to 11 inches (28 cm) long, and 4 inches (10 cm) wide.

HABITAT

Requires moderate moisture soil with rich organic content, full sunlight to partial shade. Mostly found along forest edges.

LOCATIONS

Found in Ontario and Quebec. Also found in Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.



Milkweed Identification

SANDHILL MILKWEED *Asclepias humistrata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 2.98 feet (90 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Pink, lavender and white.

LEAVES

Clasping leaves that are arranged oppositely.

HABITAT

Dry areas with sandy soils, often within or near open forests. Requires full to nearly full sun and tolerates very hot, dry conditions.

LOCATIONS

Found in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North and South Carolina.



Milkweed Identification

LANCEOLATE/CEDAR HILL MILKWEED *Asclepias lanceolata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 5 feet (152 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Red-orange.

LEAVES

Up to 4 inches (10 cm) long. Leaves are arranged oppositely and are lanceolate shaped.

HABITAT

Wet soils, both fresh and brackish; wet pinelands. Requires a lot of sun and high water usage.

LOCATIONS

Found in coastal plains from New Jersey to Florida and Southeast Texas.



Milkweed Identification

MEAD'S MILKWEED *Asclepias meadii*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3 feet (92 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Greenish or slightly yellow with occasional hints of purple with a waxy texture.

LEAVES

Up to 2.8 inches (7cm) long, and 4 inches (10 cm) wide. 2-6 pairs of opposite, narrowing into a point.

HABITAT

Native to tall grass prairies and some glades in the Ozarks. It grows well in prairies that are regularly burned and in rocky, open areas with low competition with other plants.

LOCATIONS

Native to the American Midwest. Naturally occurring plants can still be found in Missouri and Illinois and populations have been reintroduced to Indiana and Wisconsin. There are some populations in Kansas and Iowa, but due to expansion in highways and agriculture the population is dwindling. Federally listed as a threatened species.



Milkweed Identification

PURPLE MILKWEED *Asclepias purpurascens*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3 feet (92 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

First develop a pink color, but turn darker purple as they mature.

LEAVES

Elliptical, oblong shape, arranged oppositely.

HABITAT

Requires dry soil and full sun. Native to savannas, prairies, meadows and fields.

LOCATIONS

Native to Ontario, Eastern, Southern and Midwestern United States. Listed as endangered in Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Rhode Island, and as a special concern species in Connecticut and Tennessee.



Milkweed Identification

FOURLEAF MILKWEED *Asclepias quadrifolia*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 17.7 inches (45 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

First develop a pink color, but turn darker purple as they mature.

LEAVES

Up to 4.7 inches (12 cm) long and 2.3 inches (6 cm) wide. Usually elliptical to oval shapes, opposite in arrangement, but clustered to form a false whorl.

HABITAT

Native to dry, rocky, open forest and frequently found on upland slopes. Requires partial shade, but can be found in shaded areas.

LOCATIONS

Native to Ontario, and Eastern United States.



Milkweed Identification

TEXAS MILKWEED *Asclepias texana*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 20 inches (50 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Produces bright white flowers in the summer.

LEAVES

Up to 7.8 inches (20 cm) long and 1.3 inches (3.5 cm) wide.

HABITAT

Native to dry, rocky areas in canyons or along arroyos. It can also be found at woodland edges, ditches, ravines, and depressions. Requires sandy soil, sandy loam or gravelly soil. It doesn't require a lot of water. Requires full sun.

LOCATIONS

Native to Northern Mexico, specifically Durango and Coahuilla, and Texas.



Milkweed Identification

WHITE MILKWEED *Asclepias variegata*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 4 feet (120 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

White with purple tinges.

LEAVES

Up to 6 inches (15 cm) long and 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide. Arrangement is opposite.

HABITAT

Dry or rocky woods, sandy open ground, ravine bottoms, low woods, slopes, ridges and roadsides. Likes sun or partial sun. Doesn't require a lot of water.

LOCATIONS

Native in New York and Connecticut south to Florida, west to Texas and Oklahoma and northeast to Illinois and Ohio. Extirpated in Ontario.



Milkweed Identification

SULLIVANT/SMOOTH MILKWEED *Asclepias sullivantii*

SPECIFICATIONS

HEIGHT

Can grow up to 3.2 feet (100 cm) tall.

FLOWERS

Pale to deep pinkish purple.

LEAVES

Oval shaped leaves that form into a point are oppositely arranged with wavy margins and reddish midveins.

HABITAT

Various moist soils in full sun. Native to prairies, meadows and fields.

LOCATIONS

Native to Southern Ontario and in Arizona, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

