

NATIVE MONARCH VALUE ●●●●●

Arizona Milkweed

Asclepias angustifolia Schweigg.

A slender riparian milkweed of the Arizona sky islands, carrying white flowers in small side umbels along the upper stem. It grows where there is water in a landscape that mostly has none, which is why it is confined to canyon bottoms, cienega edges and shaded streamsides.

IN FLOWER

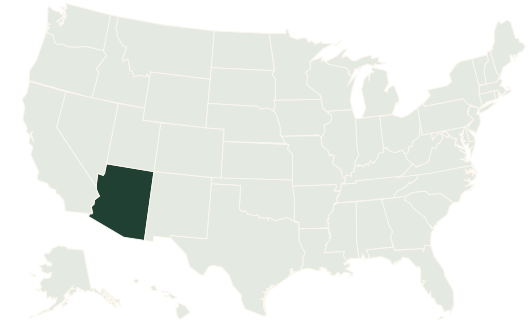


May to September, peaking in July and August



Braderfly. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

RECORDED RANGE



1 state. Generalized to state level.

KEY FACTS

HEIGHT	8in-2.3ft	SPREAD	1ft-1.7ft
FLOWERS	white, pink	BLOOM	May to September
LIGHT	Full sun, Part shade	SOIL	Average, Wet
USDA ZONES	7 to 10	LEAVES	opposite, lanceolate
SAP	Milky latex	ROOTS	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
SEED	30 days cold-moist	RATINGS	Garden 4/5, nectar 3/5, monarch 4/5

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

- Slender erect stems 20 to 70 cm tall, unbranched or with a few shoots from the middle and upper nodes.
- Opposite, almost stalkless leaves, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 4 to 12 cm long and only 2 to 11 mm wide, tapering at both ends and hairless on both surfaces.
- White flowers, sometimes tinged pink or pale purple, in umbels 2 to 3 cm across borne at the sides of the upper stem rather than at the tip.
- Habitat is the giveaway: canyon bottoms, floodplain meadows and cienega edges between about 3,500 and 7,000 feet.

ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE VALUE

A documented monarch and queen host in southeastern Arizona, and one of the few milkweeds available to them in the Madrean

canyons. Its riparian habitat concentrates butterflies, so a small stand carries more traffic than its size suggests.

GROWING IT

Grown in butterfly gardens around Tucson and the Huachucas and occasionally offered by Southwest native nurseries. It wants more water than the desert milkweeds: give it a spot that stays damp below the surface, with sun for part of the day and shade for the rest.

CAUTIONS

Standard milkweed cautions. Milky sap, irritating to eyes.

WHERE IT GROWS

Arizona

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS



Pamahon. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.



Pamahon. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.



Pamahon. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

REFERENCES

- Plants of the World Online. <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94096-1>
- GBIF. <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170306>
- iNaturalist. <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47908>
- BONAP county-level map. <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20angustifolia.png>

THE FULL ACCOUNT, WITH MORE PHOTOGRAPHS

<https://milkweedusa.com/species/arizona-milkweed/>