

NATIVE, RARE OR PROTECTED    MONARCH VALUE    ●●●●●

# Bear Mountain Milkweed

*Asclepias scaposa* Vail

Also called Stalked Milkweed

A very low west Texas milkweed of gravelly scrub-oak openings, no taller than a hand span, carrying a single long-stalked umbel of rose-purple flowers above broad clasping leaves. It flowers in early spring and is gone by midsummer.

IN FLOWER

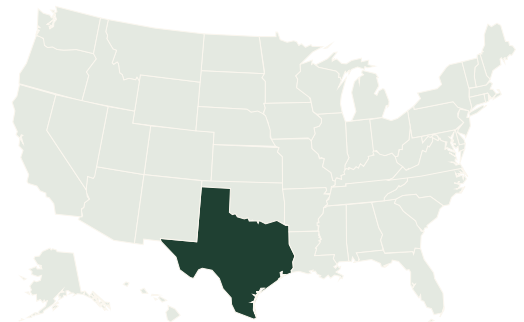


March to June, peaking in April and May



Michelle W. . CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.

RECORDED RANGE



1 state. Generalized to state level.

KEY FACTS

|            |                    |         |                                     |
|------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| HEIGHT     | 3in-8in            | SPREAD  | 6in-1.2ft                           |
| FLOWERS    | rose, cream        | BLOOM   | March to June                       |
| LIGHT      | Full sun           | SOIL    | Dry                                 |
| USDA ZONES | 7 to 9             | LEAVES  | opposite, ovate                     |
| SAP        | Milky latex        | ROOTS   | Deep taproot, resents transplanting |
| SEED       | 30 days cold-moist | RATINGS | Garden 1/5, nectar 2/5, monarch 2/5 |

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

- Tiny, to about 20 cm tall. One of a small group of milkweeds that never get above ankle height.
- A long bare flower stalk rising well clear of the foliage, which is what the name scaposa refers to.
- Broad opposite stalkless leaves, ovate to oblong-lanceolate, with heart-shaped bases clasping a smooth waxy stem.
- Livid rose to purplish corolla with a cream gynostegium flushed rose or purple.
- Dry gravelly openings among scrub oak, on mountainsides and flats in the Trans-Pecos.

ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE VALUE

An early-spring flowerer in a region where most milkweeds wait for the summer monsoon, so it is available to the first monarchs moving north through west Texas. Little else about its ecology is documented.

---

**GROWING IT**

---

Not in cultivation and not commercially available.

---

**CAUTIONS**

---

A narrowly distributed species. Photograph and report rather than collect.

---

**WHERE IT GROWS**

---

Texas

---

**MORE PHOTOGRAPHS**

---



Leticia Jiménez Hernández. CC BY-SA 4.0. iNaturalist



Michelle W. . CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.



Michelle W. . CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.

---

**THE FULL ACCOUNT, WITH MORE PHOTOGRAPHS**

---

<https://milkweedusa.com/species/bear-mountain-milkweed/>