

# Broadleaf Milkweed

*Asclepias latifolia* (Torr.) Raf.

Corn-kernel Milkweed, Broadleaf Milkvine

Thick, almost circular leaves stacked up a stout stem like a pile of green plates, with flower clusters tucked into the leaf axils. A tough, deeply rooted southern plains species that thrives where summer means 100°F and no rain.



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## Key facts

| Field          | Value              | Field  | Value                        |
|----------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Status         | Native             | Height | 1ft-3ft                      |
| Flowers        | green, cream       | Bloom  | May to August                |
| Light          | Full sun           | Soil   | Dry                          |
| USDA zones     | 5-9                | Leaves | opposite, orbicular          |
| Sap            | Milky latex        | Roots  | Rhizomatous, spreads by root |
| Stratification | 30 days cold-moist | States | 10                           |

## How to identify it

- Leaves are very broad, blunt-tipped and often wider than they are long, clasping the stem closely.
- Flower clusters sit in the leaf axils rather than crowning the plant.
- Stems are stout and unbranched, giving a stiff, architectural look.

## Ecology

Its big leaves make it a productive monarch host on the southern plains, where it is one of the few milkweeds with real leaf area. Grazing animals avoid it, so it persists on heavily used rangeland.

## Growing

Extremely drought-tolerant and long-lived, but rhizomatous and considered a rangeland weed by ranchers. Rarely offered in the nursery trade.

## Cautions

Toxic to livestock, and unpalatable enough that it increases on overgrazed land.

## Where it grows

Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming

## More photographs



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## References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94386-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170304>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/62296>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20latifolia.png>

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