

California Milkweed

Asclepias californica Greene

Round-hooded Milkweed

A gorgeous, entirely white-woolly California endemic whose deep wine-red flowers hang in heavy nodding clusters against silver foliage. It looks like a plant designed rather than evolved.



Joe Decruyenaere. CC BY-SA 2.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1ft-3ft
Flowers	maroon, purple	Bloom	April to July
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	8-10	Leaves	opposite, ovate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	1

How to identify it

- Entire plant thickly felted in white wool, giving a silver-gray appearance.
- Flowers deep maroon to dusty purple-red, in large drooping clusters.
- Stems sprawl and arch outward from a woody crown.
- Chaparral, oak woodland and grassland slopes below 7,000 feet.

Ecology

An important western monarch host in the California foothills, blooming before the summer dry season arrives.

Growing

Superb in a dry California garden but resents summer water once dormant. Sharp drainage, full sun, and no irrigation after June.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

California

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170236>
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<https://milkweedusa.com/species/california-milkweed/>