

Carolina Milkweed

Asclepias cinerea Walter

Ash-colored Milkweed

A wiry, thread-leaved coastal plain milkweed carrying a few widely spaced, unusually elegant ash-mauve flowers that seem to hover in mid-air on hair-fine stalks.



Siddarth Machado. CC BY 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1ft-2.5ft
Flowers	mauve, gray	Bloom	May to August
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	8-9	Leaves	opposite, threadlike
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	6

How to identify it

- Very fine, almost invisible flower stalks, so the blooms appear to float.
- Flowers pale gray-lavender, sparse, in small open clusters.
- Thread-like opposite leaves on a slender stem in dry sandy pineland.

Ecology

A fire-maintained sandhill species of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida panhandle.

Growing

Rare in cultivation; requires sand, sun and lean soil.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94162-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170337>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158734>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20cinerea.png>

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