

Clasping Milkweed

Asclepias amplexicaulis Sm.

Blunt-leaved Milkweed, Sand Milkweed

Unmistakable once you have seen it: wavy-edged blue-green leaves clasping directly around the stem, and a single long bare stalk lifting one rounded cluster of dusty pink-green flowers well clear of the foliage.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1.5ft-3ft
Flowers	pink, green, mauve	Bloom	May to July
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	3-9	Leaves	opposite, clasping
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	34

How to identify it

- Leaf bases wrap around the stem with no stalk at all.
- Leaf margins are strongly wavy and the surface is smooth and waxy.
- One flower cluster per stem on a long naked peduncle.
- Almost always in dry sand or sandy loam.

Ecology

A sandy-soil specialist of pine barrens, old fields and oak savanna. Blooms early, giving returning monarchs a host before common milkweed is ready.

Growing

Needs sand and sun; will not tolerate rich, moist beds. Handsome foliage all season.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia

More photographs



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[<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wackybadger/> Jo

References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170332>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47910>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20amplexicaulis.png>

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