

Engelmann's Milkweed

Asclepias engelmanniana Woodson

A tall, sparse, almost skeletal prairie milkweed with long drooping linear leaves and small greenish-yellow flowers. It looks fragile and is anything but, with a taproot that goes deep into sandy plains soil.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	2ft-5ft
Flowers	green, yellow	Bloom	June to August
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	4-8	Leaves	alternate, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	8

How to identify it

- Very long, narrow, drooping alternate leaves on a tall slender stem.
- Small greenish-yellow flowers in loose clusters from the upper leaf axils.
- Distinctly gaunt outline compared with other plains milkweeds.

Ecology

A sandhills and shortgrass species used by monarchs during the fall migration through the central flyway.

Growing

Rarely cultivated. Needs deep sand and full exposure.

Cautions

Standard narrow-leaf milkweed toxicity.

Where it grows

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170267>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158738>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20engelmanniana.png>

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