

Fewflower Milkweed

Asclepias lanceolata Walter

Cedar Hill Milkweed, Purple Silkweed

A tall, sparse, brilliant orange-red milkweed of coastal marsh and wet savanna. Imagine butterfly weed stretched to five feet, standing in a brackish ditch with only a handful of flowers per head.



Happyixie. CC BY-SA 3.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	2ft-5ft
Flowers	orange, red	Bloom	May to August
Light	Full sun	Soil	Wet
USDA zones	6-10	Leaves	opposite, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Fibrous, clump-forming and easy to move
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	12

How to identify it

- Tall unbranched stem with very few, very narrow leaf pairs.
- Flowers vivid orange-red, in small clusters of a dozen or fewer.
- Coastal wetlands, brackish marsh edges and wet pine savanna.

Ecology

A striking nectar plant in coastal wetlands and a modest monarch host along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Growing

Needs constantly wet, acidic soil and full sun, so treat it as a bog garden plant.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia

More photographs



Everglades NPS from Homestead, Florida, United



Everglades NPS from Homestead, Florida, United



WendyAvilesR. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30049929-2>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170251>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158744>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20lanceolata.png>

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