

Green Antelopehorn

Asclepias viridis Walter

Green Milkweed, Spider Milkweed

The workhorse of the south-central states: sprawling stems, broad wavy leaves and big open clusters of pale green flowers with purple-tinged centers, blooming early across pasture, roadside and prairie from Texas to Tennessee.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1ft-2.5ft
Flowers	green, purple	Bloom	April to July
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry, Average
USDA zones	5-9	Leaves	alternate, oblong
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	18

How to identify it

- Flowers pale green with a purplish crown, in large loose clusters at the stem tips.
- Leaves broad, alternate and often with wavy edges.
- Stems lean and sprawl outward from the base.
- Very common on unimproved pasture and roadsides in Texas and Oklahoma.

Ecology

Along with antelope horns, this is the plant that receives the first northbound monarchs in the south-central flyway each spring, which arguably makes it the highest-leverage milkweed on the continent.

Growing

Tough, drought-proof and long-lived on lean soils. Direct-sow; the taproot dislikes transplanting. Goes dormant in high summer heat.

Cautions

Toxic to livestock in quantity, though rarely eaten by choice.

Where it grows

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170294>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/60946>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20viridis.png>

<https://milkweedusa.com/species/green-antelopehorn/>