

Lemmon's Milkweed

Asclepias lemmonii A. Gray

A slim sky-island milkweed of shaded canyon bottoms in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, with small green flowers flushed purple, appearing after the summer rains.



M. Socorro González Elizondo. CC BY-SA 4.0. iNaturalist.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	8in-2ft
Flowers	green, purple	Bloom	July to September
Light	Part shade, Full sun	Soil	Dry, Average
USDA zones	7-10	Leaves	opposite, lanceolate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	2

How to identify it

- Slender stems in moist canyon shade rather than open desert.
- Small green flowers tinged with dull purple, few per cluster.
- Restricted to the higher sky-island ranges near the Mexican border.

Ecology

A borderland species at the northern edge of a largely Mexican distribution, used by queens as well as monarchs.

Growing

Not in cultivation.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, New Mexico

More photographs



Public domain (CC0). CC0. iNaturalist.



Sue Carnahan. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.



Katja Schulz. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94393-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170287>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158746>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20lemmonii.png>

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