

Narrowleaf Milkweed

Asclepias fascicularis Decne.

Mexican Whorled Milkweed, Narrow-leaved Milkweed

The workhorse milkweed of the Pacific states and the backbone of western monarch recovery planting. Slim whorls of narrow leaves, dense clusters of small greenish-white flowers flushed pink, and an ability to shrug off a rainless California summer.



No machine-readable author provided. Curtis Clark assumed (based on copyri

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	2ft-4ft
Flowers	white, pink, green	Bloom	May to September
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry, Average
USDA zones	6-10	Leaves	whorled, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Rhizomatous, spreads by root
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	7

How to identify it

- Leaves narrow and often in whorls of three to five, but wider and softer than eastern whorled milkweed.
- Flower clusters are dense and rounded, greenish-white with a dull rose tinge.
- Stems slender, usually several from one crown, smooth or nearly so.
- Widely branched at the top when growing well.

Ecology

The primary larval host for the western monarch population through California's Central Valley and foothills. Tolerates the long dry summer that kills more mesic milkweeds, and re-sprouts vigorously after being grazed or mown.

Growing

The right milkweed for a California, Oregon or Nevada garden. Deeply drought-tolerant once established, spreads slowly by rhizome, and goes summer-dormant if left completely dry. Sow in the fall to use winter rains, or stratify for a month and sow in spring.

Cautions

Like other narrow-leaved milkweeds it is toxic to grazing stock in quantity, and it is the species most often implicated in western livestock poisoning.

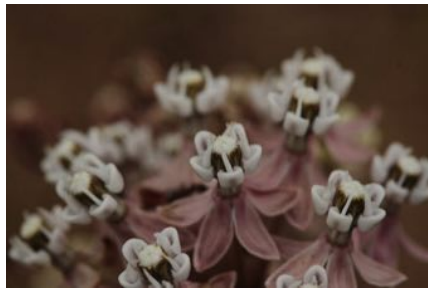
Where it grows

Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington

More photographs



glmory. CC0. Wikimedia Commons.



Björn S.... CC BY-SA 2.0. Wikimedia Commons.



Björn S.... CC BY-SA 2.0. Wikimedia Commons.

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94272-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170291>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/56851>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20fascicularis.png>

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