

Oval-leaf Milkweed

Asclepias ovalifolia Decne.

Dwarf Milkweed

A compact northern-prairie milkweed under two feet tall, with neat oval leaves and small creamy-white flower clusters, found on sandy prairie and open oak savanna from Michigan to Montana.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	8in-1.7ft
Flowers	white, green	Bloom	June to July
Light	Full sun, Part shade	Soil	Dry, Average
USDA zones	3-7	Leaves	opposite, ovate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Rhizomatous, spreads by root
Stratification	60 days cold-moist	States	9

How to identify it

- Short stature with evenly spaced oval opposite leaves, downy beneath.
- One or two small terminal clusters of creamy white to greenish flowers.
- Northern prairie, sand savanna and open jack pine barrens.

Ecology

A useful monarch host in the northern breeding range and a good early-summer nectar plant on sandy prairie.

Growing

A well-behaved small milkweed for northern gardens, spreading slowly by rhizome. Needs a long cold stratification.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170264>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47905>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20ovalifolia.png>

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