

Pineneedle Milkweed

Asclepias linaria Cav.

Needle-leaf Milkweed

A shrubby, evergreen-looking milkweed densely clothed in soft needle-like leaves, resembling a small conifer until it produces its white flower clusters. A favorite of desert gardeners in Arizona and New Mexico.



Juan Carlos Fonseca Mata. CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1.5ft-4ft
Flowers	white, cream	Bloom	March to October
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	8-11	Leaves	alternate, threadlike
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	3

How to identify it

- Dense, soft, pine-needle foliage on a woody-based shrubby plant.
- Small white flowers in tight rounded clusters at the branch tips.
- Retains foliage year-round in frost-free areas.

Ecology

A host for monarchs and queens in the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, and a long-season nectar source.

Growing

Widely available in Southwest nurseries and easy in a xeric garden. Full sun, sharp drainage, minimal water.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, New Mexico, Texas

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94400-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170270>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/62295>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20linaria.png>

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