

Red Milkweed

Asclepias rubra L.

Bog Milkweed

A rare bog and seepage-slope milkweed with dusky rose-red flowers and stiff, sharply pointed leaves, scattered thinly down the Atlantic coastal plain and listed as endangered in most northern states where it survives.



peganum from Henfield, England. CC BY-SA 2.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	2ft-4ft
Flowers	red, pink	Bloom	June to July
Light	Full sun, Part shade	Soil	Wet
USDA zones	6-9	Leaves	opposite, lanceolate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Fibrous, clump-forming and easy to move
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	18

How to identify it

- Flowers dull red to rose, in one or a few upright clusters.
- Leaves lance-shaped with a long tapering point and rounded base, held stiffly.
- Acid bogs, seepage slopes and pitcher plant savannas.

Ecology

Highly habitat-restricted; declining wherever coastal plain wetlands are drained.

Growing

Difficult, needing acidic, permanently moist, low-nutrient conditions.

Cautions

Rare and legally protected in several states. Never collect from the wild.

Where it grows

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94615-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170334>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/143553>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20rubra.png>

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