

Rusby's Milkweed

Asclepias rusbyi (Vail) Woodson

A slender milkweed of Arizona and New Mexico pine-oak woodland and mountain grassland, with narrow alternate leaves and small greenish-white flower clusters. It follows the summer monsoon rather than the spring.



Public domain (CC0). CC0. iNaturalist.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1ft-2.5ft
Flowers	green, white	Bloom	May to August
Light	Full sun, Part shade	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	5-9	Leaves	alternate, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	2

How to identify it

- Narrow, alternate, often slightly folded leaves on a wiry upright stem.
- Small greenish-white flowers in loose clusters.
- Ponderosa pine and pine-oak woodland openings above about 5,000 feet.

Ecology

A mid-elevation host for monarchs and queens moving through the Arizona sky islands during the monsoon.

Growing

Not in general cultivation.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, New Mexico

More photographs



Sue Carnahan. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.



CK2AZ. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.



Wendy McCrady. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:21285-2>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170311>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158758>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20rusbyi.png>

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