

Ruth's Milkweed

Asclepias ruthiae Maguire

A low, spreading Colorado Plateau milkweed of red sand and slickrock country, with small thick leaves and pale pink-cream flowers held close to the ground among the sandstone.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	4in-1ft
Flowers	pink, cream	Bloom	April to June
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	5-9	Leaves	opposite, ovate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	60 days cold-moist	States	3

How to identify it

- Prostrate to low-spreading stems radiating from a central taproot.
- Small, thick, blunt leaves, often folded and gray-tinged.
- Pale pink to cream flowers in small clusters near the stem tips.

Ecology

A sandy-soil specialist of the Colorado Plateau, used by monarchs and queens moving through canyon country in spring.

Growing

Rarely available. Needs pure sand, full exposure and no summer irrigation.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, Nevada, Utah

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3574177>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/898625>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20ruthiae.png>

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