

Sand Milkweed

Asclepias arenaria Torr.

Western Sand Milkweed

A stout, velvety-gray milkweed of deep sand, found in sandhills, blowouts and dune country from Nebraska to Texas, with crowded cream flower clusters and thick wavy-edged leaves.



sonnia hill. CC BY 2.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1ft-2.5ft
Flowers	cream, green	Bloom	June to August
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	4-8	Leaves	opposite, ovate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Rhizomatous, spreads by root
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	8

How to identify it

- Whole plant densely covered in short white hairs, giving a gray cast.
- Leaves thick with distinctly wavy margins, held stiffly.
- Grows only in deep, loose sand, so habitat alone nearly identifies it.

Ecology

An important monarch host in the Nebraska Sandhills and southern plains dune systems, where its broad leaves are a rare resource.

Growing

Requires pure sand and sharp drainage; unsuited to ordinary garden soil.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah

More photographs



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References

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- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170290>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158732>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20arenaria.png>

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