

NATIVE MONARCH VALUE ●●●●●

Slim Milkweed

Asclepias linearis Scheele

A Texas endemic of coastal and blackland prairie, wiry and many-stemmed, with thread-fine opposite leaves and small greenish-white flowers. Known from the middle and upper Gulf Coast north to the Dallas area and nowhere else in the United States.

IN FLOWER

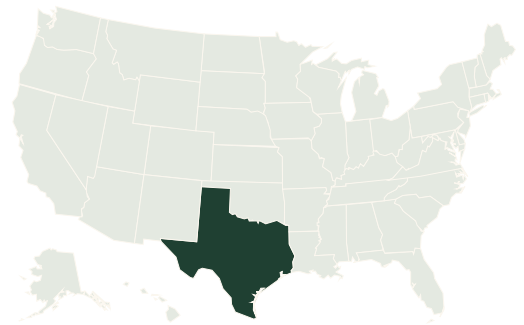


May to November, peaking in May and June



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RECORDED RANGE



1 state. Generalized to state level.

KEY FACTS

HEIGHT	8in-1.7ft	SPREAD	8in-1.3ft
FLOWERS	white, green	BLOOM	May to November
LIGHT	Full sun	SOIL	Dry, Average
USDA ZONES	8 to 10	LEAVES	opposite, threadlike
SAP	Milky latex	ROOTS	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
SEED	30 days cold-moist	RATINGS	Garden 2/5, nectar 2/5, monarch 3/5

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

- Thread-fine linear leaves only 1 to 4 mm wide and 3 to 9 cm long, stalkless or nearly so.
- Leaves are opposite, not in whorls. This is the main separation from whorled milkweed, which carries them in rings of four to six.
- Slender erect stems, usually several from the base, 20 to 50 cm tall.
- Small greenish-white flowers, occasionally brownish or purple-tinged, with a white gynostegium.

ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE VALUE

A prairie specialist on the Texas Gulf Coast, where almost all of its habitat has been lost to agriculture and development. It flowers over a long season from late spring into autumn, which makes it useful to monarchs on both legs of the migration through Texas.

GROWING IT

Rarely offered, and then only by Texas native-plant nurseries. Needs full sun and sharp drainage, and dislikes winter wet.

CAUTIONS

Standard milkweed cautions. A narrowly distributed endemic; buy nursery-grown plants rather than collecting from the wild.

WHERE IT GROWS

Texas

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS



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THE FULL ACCOUNT, WITH MORE PHOTOGRAPHS

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