

Slimleaf Milkweed

Asclepias stenophylla A. Gray

Narrow-leaf Green Milkweed

A tall wand of a plant with grass-fine leaves and creamy-green flowers clustered tight against the stem, scattered through unplowed tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie.



Samuel A. Schmid. CC BY 4.0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	1.5ft-3.3ft
Flowers	cream, green	Bloom	June to August
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	4-8	Leaves	alternate, threadlike
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	13

How to identify it

- Extremely narrow alternate leaves, sometimes eight inches long and only a few millimeters wide.
- Flowers greenish-cream in small axillary clusters up the stem.
- Reliable indicator of high-quality remnant prairie.

Ecology

A prairie-remnant specialist; its presence usually signals ground that has never been plowed.

Growing

Rarely available; needs lean prairie soil and patience.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94664-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170321>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158760>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20stenophylla.png>

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