

Woolly Milkweed

Asclepias lanuginosa Nutt.

Side-cluster Milkweed

A tiny, shaggy-haired prairie milkweed only a few inches tall, with one cream flower cluster held on a short stalk. Conservation-listed across most of the upper Midwest.



Patrick Alexander from Las Cruces, NM. CC0. Wikimedia Commons.

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native, rare	Height	4in-1ft
Flowers	cream, green	Bloom	May to June
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	3-7	Leaves	alternate, lanceolate
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	60 days cold-moist	States	10

How to identify it

- Densely covered in long soft hairs throughout.
- Very short stature with a single cream-green flower cluster.
- Dry gravel prairie and hill prairie remnants.

Ecology

A dry-prairie remnant indicator, lost wherever prairie has been converted or heavily grazed.

Growing

Rare and difficult; leave wild populations undisturbed.

Cautions

Listed as threatened or endangered in several Midwestern states.

Where it grows

Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:329557-2>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170327>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158745>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20lanuginosa.png>

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