

Zizotes Milkweed

Asclepias oenotheroides Schltldl. & Cham.

Side-cluster Milkweed, Hierba de Zizotes

A low, sprawling Texas and Southwest milkweed with wavy-edged leaves and greenish-cream flower clusters arising from the leaf axils. It blooms for most of the year and re-sprouts endlessly after mowing, which makes it one of the most reliable monarch hosts on the southern plains.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	8in-2ft
Flowers	green, cream	Bloom	March to October
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry, Average
USDA zones	7-10	Leaves	opposite, oblong
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Rhizomatous, spreads by root
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	5

How to identify it

- Flower clusters emerge from the leaf axils along the stem, not just at the tip.
- Leaves with distinctly wavy or crinkled margins.
- Low sprawling growth, frequently in mown roadsides and lawns.
- Hoods are long and slender, projecting well past the corolla.

Ecology

Its long season and tolerance of mowing make it disproportionately important to both the spring and fall monarch migrations through Texas, and it is a mainstay for queen butterflies.

Growing

Tough, drought-proof and quietly spreading. Increasingly offered by Texas native nurseries.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94504-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170282>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158753>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20oenotheroides.png>

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