

Dwarf milkweed

Asclepias ovalifolia

- Stem :** Stem simple (unbranched) and downy, 30 to 60 cm tall.
- Flowers :** greenish white or pale mauve corolla; orange or yellow corona.
- Leaves :** opposite, oval, with pointy tips, 5 to 8 cm long.
- Habitat :** likes sandy soil, roadsides and dry, sunny conditions.
- Distribution :** British-Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario



Photo: Justin Meisen



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Showy milkweed

Asclepias speciosa

- Stem :** 45 to 200 cm tall, velvety or pubescent (hairy).
- Flowers :** pale pink, arranged in umbels. The corona hoods are long (9 to 13 mm) and lance-shaped, making the flowers look like stars.
- Leaves :** opposite, 10 to 25 cm long, smooth or slightly downy.
- Habitat :** well-drained soil, sunny sites, pastures, swamps, forest edges, untilled fields, roadsides, ditches.
- Distribution :** British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba



Photo: Matt Lavin

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Green milkweed

Asclepias viridiflora

- Stem :** 30 to 90 cm tall, pubescent, green and sometimes purplish.
- Flowers :** arranged in often downward-facing umbels, pale green sometimes tinged with violet. Unlike other milkweed species, the flowers of this species have no corona hoods.
- Leaves :** arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. Vary in shape depending on the habitat where the plant is found. They may be long and narrow or broader and oval. The leaf edges may sometimes be wavy.
- Habitat :** dry, sandy or rocky soils, but also in wetter sites like marshes.
- Distribution :** British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario



Whorled milkweed

Asclepias verticillata

- Stem :** angled, pubescent (hairy) or glabrous, 40 to 100 cm tall.
- Flowers :** white corona and greenish corolla.
- Leaves :** elongated and narrow, almost threadlike, 5 to 10 cm long. Arranged in groups of 2 to 4, opposite each other on the stem.
- Fruit :** elongated and lance-shaped, 7 to 10 cm long, glabrous or pubescent (hairy).
- Habitat :** dry, infertile soils.
- Distribution :** Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario



Common milkweed

Asclepias syriaca

- Stem :** downy, usually single, 90 to 120 cm tall. Underground stems.
- Flowers :** pale pink or mauve, arranged in almost spherical umbels.
- Leaves :** broad and thick, 10 to 20 cm long, arranged in opposite pairs on the stem and with pubescent undersides.
- Fruit :** large spindle-shaped fruit, bumpy, rough and downy.
- Habitat :** poor, dry soil, disturbed, sunny sites.
- Distribution :** Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, Prince-Edward-Island



Photo: Sonya Charest

