

Dwarf Milkweed

Asclepias involucrata Engelm. ex Torr.

Involucrate Milkweed

A tiny, ground-hugging desert milkweed with wavy narrow leaves and pale green flowers held almost at soil level, found on sand and gravel across the Southwest.



Craig Martin <https://www.inaturalist.org/people/craigmartin>. CC0. Wikimedi

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native	Height	4in-10in
Flowers	green, cream	Bloom	April to June
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	5-9	Leaves	opposite, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	60 days cold-moist	States	8

How to identify it

- Under a foot tall, with stems spreading flat from a central crown.
- Leaf margins conspicuously wavy or crisped.
- Flowers greenish-cream in clusters nestled among the leaves.

Ecology

A minor but genuine early-season host in desert grassland.

Growing

Effectively never cultivated.

Cautions

Standard milkweed cautions.

Where it grows

Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah

More photographs



USEPA Environmental-Protection-Agency. Public



Patrick Alexander from Las Cruces, NM. CC0. Wi



Patrick Alexander from Las Cruces, NM. CC0. Wi

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:94357-1>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170243>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158743>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20involucrata.png>

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