

Serpentine Milkweed

Asclepias solanoana Woodson

Solano Milkweed

A prostrate northern California endemic confined to serpentine barrens, forming flat mats of round gray-green leaves studded with small cream flowers. It grows on soil so metal-rich that almost nothing else survives.



Shasta-Trinity National Forest USDA Forest Service.. CC0. Wikimedia Common

Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native, rare	Height	4in-10in
Flowers	cream, pink	Bloom	May to July
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	7-9	Leaves	opposite, orbicular
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	60 days cold-moist	States	1

How to identify it

- Completely prostrate mats on bare serpentine rock and soil.
- Round, thick, gray-green leaves pressed to the ground.
- Small cream flowers with pinkish hoods.

Ecology

A serpentine-endemic rarity of high conservation value and very limited distribution.

Growing

Should not be collected or cultivated from wild material.

Cautions

Rare California endemic; leave undisturbed.

Where it grows

California

More photographs



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References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:290390-2>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170277>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/62293>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20solanoana.png>

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