

Illinois Milkweeds: Genus *Asclepias*. Most information from www.illinoiswildflowers.info. This website also contains other interesting and useful information about many of these species. An * after the common name indicates that seeds or plants are generally available from native plant nurseries.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Flower color	Sun	Soil	Comments
Poke Milkweed*	<i>A. exalta</i>	2-6 ft.	Bi-colored	Partial to dappled	Rich loam or sandy loam	Widely distributed, woodland sp.
White Swamp/Aquatic Milkweed	<i>A. perennis</i>	1-2 ft.	White to pinkish	Partial sun to medium shade	Wet to moist	Occasional in southern Illinois, wetland species
Swamp Milkweed*	<i>A. incarta</i>	2-6 ft.	Pink	Full to partial sun	Wet to moist	Common, cultivars available
White Milkweed	<i>A. variegata</i>	1.5- 3 ft.	Light green to white	Partial sun to light shade	Dry mesic	Showy flowers, occasional in southern IL
Purple Milkweed*	<i>A. purpurascens</i>	2-3 ft.	Pale to deep purple	Partial sun	Tolerates variations in moisture	Widely distributed, occasional
Short Green Milkweed*	<i>A. viridiflora</i>	1.5-2 ft.	Light green to green	Full sun	Dry	Widely distributed, uncommon to occasional
Whorled Milkweed*	<i>A. verticillata</i>	Up to 2 ft.	Greenish white	Full sun	Dry	Widely distributed, can be aggressive, among most toxic
Butterfly Milkweed*	<i>A. tuberosa</i>	1.5-3 ft.	Bright orange	Full sun	Dry, sandy acid soil	Clear sap, long lasting flowers
Prairie Milkweed*	<i>A. sullivanti</i>	2-3 ft.	Pink	Full sun	Moist to mesic	Widespread, resembles common milkweed
Oval Leafed/Dwarf Milkweed	<i>A. ovalifolia</i>	.75-1.5 ft.	White, greenish white, pale purplish white	Full to partial sun	Dry, sandy soil	state endangered, grows well in rock gardens
Tall Green Milkweed	<i>A. hirtella</i>	1.5-3 ft	Greenish white	Full sun	Moist to dry	Occasional
Woolly Milkweed	<i>A. lanuginosa</i>	1 ft	Green	Full sun	Dry gravel prairies	Northern Illinois
Sand/Clasping Milkweed	<i>A. amplexicaultus</i>	1-3ft	Pink or purple	Full to partial sun	Dry, sandy	Widespread
Four-leaf Milkweed	<i>A. quadriflora</i>	1-2 ft	White to pink	Full sun to part shade	Dry to moist	Eastern and southern IL
Meads Milkweed	<i>A. meadii</i>					Probably extinct in Illinois
Green Antelopehorn/ Spider Milkweed*	<i>A. viridis</i>	1 ft	Greenish white with purple center	Full to part sun	Dry	Southern Illinois
Common Milkweed*	<i>A. syriaca</i>	2-6 ft.	Light pink to reddish purple	Full sun	diverse	Can be invasive, prickly seed pods