

Asclepias syriaca

Common Milkweed,
Milkweed

Native to Maine

Upland
Fields













Leaves



homerewardprice, www.flickr.com



Look for smooth, pale green leaves that are blade-shaped, 7 to 25 cm long, and 3 to 12 cm wide with smooth edges. The underside has tiny hairs that feel soft and velvety. The leaves can be slightly wavy.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 BLADE	 WAVY

Plant



dogtooth77, www.flickr.com



Look for a large-leaved plant with a single stem that has no branches. Common Milkweed grows up to 2 m tall in thrives in sandy soils.

Stem



Peter Gorman, www.flickr.com



Look for stems that are thick and light green with no branches.

Seasonal Change



ashe-villain, www.flickr.com



In July look for clusters of tiny purplish flowers. In late summer look for seedpods that are long, pointed, and warty that release soft hairy seeds as they ripen.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

Milkweed is unlike any other type of plant in Maine. It has a stem without branches, soft velvety leaves, and milky sap. There are a number of types of Milkweed species. Common Milkweed is the tallest species and has the widest leaves.

Fun Fact

Milkweed is poisonous to most creatures but not to Monarch butterflies or caterpillars. The poison stays in the Monarchs, however, and makes them poisonous to birds and other predators that try to eat them.