

oval milkweed *Asclepias ovalifolia*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: endangered, native

FEATURES

Oval milkweed, also known as dwarf milkweed, is about 20 inches in height. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Seedpods are up to three inches in length. The flowers are positioned on the stem tip and in leaf axils and are white, green-white or pale purple-white in color.

BEHAVIORS

Oval milkweed flowers May through June. It grows in the northeastern one-fourth of the state and reaches its southeastern range limit in Illinois. This species can be found in hill and sand prairies, savannas and dry woods. Oval milkweed is endangered in Illinois.

Aquatic Habitats: none

Woodland Habitats: coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats: gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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