

# prairie milkweed

## *Asclepias sullivantii*

### FEATURES

Prairie milkweed is a smooth, perennial herb with a milky sap. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. The simple, entire leaves may be sessile or on a short stalk. Flowers develop in a cluster at the stem tip. The five, downward-pointing petals per flower support five, inwardly curving horns. Flowers are purple and about three-eighths inch in length. The fruit is a long, pointed, smooth seedpod. Prairie milkweed may attain a height of two to four feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Prairie milkweed may be found statewide in Illinois but is much more common in the northern two-thirds of the state. It grows in moist to wet prairies. Flowers are produced from June through July. Flowers are pollinated by insects, and seeds are wind-dispersed.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Gentianales  
Family: Apocynaceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE







flowers and buds



### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie