

purple milkweed *Asclepias purpurascens*

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Purple milkweed grows to a maximum height of about three feet. Leaves are oval and arranged oppositely on the stem. The leaves are large and may be eight inches long and four inches wide. Flowers develop in spherical clusters at the top of the plant. Each flower has its own stalk. The flowers are red-purple with five reflexed petals and five hoods per flower. The fruits are smooth pods, up to six inches long and less than one inch wide.

BEHAVIORS

Purple milkweed grows statewide in Illinois in prairies and along the edges of woods. Flowering occurs from May through July.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; shrub prairie

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