

showy milkweed

Asclepias speciosa

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

FEATURES

Showy milkweed grows up to three feet in height. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Seedpods grow up to three inches in length. Flowers are positioned in the leaf axils and have red-purple petals with pink hoods.

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

BEHAVIORS

Showy milkweed flowers June through August. It grows in a few counties in northern Illinois along railroads and in moist areas. This species was introduced from the western United States. The flowers are larger than those of other milkweeds in Illinois.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge