

## showy milkweed *Asclepias speciosa*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: common, nonnative

### 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.

### 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.

Aquatic Habitats: none

Woodland Habitats: none

Prairie and Edge Habitats: edge

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