

woolly milkweed *Asclepias lanuginosa*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: endangered, native

FEATURES

Woolly milkweed grows to a height of less than one foot. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Seedpods grow to about four inches in length. Flowers are positioned at the stem tip and are pale green in color, sometimes with purple on the back.

BEHAVIORS

Woolly milkweed flowers from May through June. It is found in the northern one-sixth of Illinois. Woolly milkweed grows in rocky or gravel prairies where it reaches its eastern range limit. Its populations have been reduced by overgrazing and gravel mining, and it is endangered in the state.

Aquatic Habitats: bottomland forests; marshes; rivers and streams; swamps

Woodland Habitats: bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats: gravel prairie; sand prairie

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