

Asclepias linaria
Pineneedle Milkweed

Why Observe?

Pineneedle milkweed is found in Arizona, California, and New Mexico. This species of milkweed is drought and heat tolerant, and grows well in the southwest. Milkweed is an important part of the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, as monarch caterpillars can only feed on milkweed. Declines in monarch populations are directly correlated with loss of milkweed and milkweed habitat. Increasing milkweed populations will have the greatest conservation impact on increasing monarch populations as well. Queen butterflies also use pineneedle milkweed to lay their eggs and grow caterpillars.

Tips for Identification

This milkweed could be mistaken for immature pine trees with its thin needle-like leaves. Leaves grow to be about 2" long. Grows white flowers near the tips of the stems.

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



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Image Needed

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Young leaves

One or more young, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "young" and "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the leaf stalk (petiole) or stem, but before the leaf has reached full size or turned the darker green color or tougher texture of mature leaves on the plant. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.



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Leaves

One or more live, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the leaf stalk (petiole) or stem. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.



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Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Asclepias linaria*, the fruit is pod-like and changes from green to reddish-green or reddish-tan to tan or brown and splits open to expose seeds with fluff. Do not include empty fruits that have already dropped all of their seeds.



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Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Asclepias linaria*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned tan or brown and has split open to expose seeds with fluff. Do not include empty fruits that have already dropped all of their seeds.

Phenophases not pictured: Colored leaves, Falling leaves, Recent fruit or seed drop