

# prairie milkweed

## *Asclepias sullivantii*

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

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

Prairie milkweed is a smooth, perennial herb with a milky sap. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. The simple, entire leaves may be sessile or on a short stalk. Flowers develop in a cluster at the stem tip. The five, downward-pointing petals per flower support five, inwardly curving horns. Flowers are purple and about three-eighths inch in length. The fruit is a long, pointed, smooth seedpod. Prairie milkweed may attain a height of two to four feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Prairie milkweed may be found statewide in Illinois but is much more common in the northern two-thirds of the state. It grows in moist to wet prairies. Flowers are produced from June through July. Flowers are pollinated by insects, and seeds are wind-dispersed.



### ILLINOIS RANGE



flowers and buds



**Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

**Woodland Habitats**

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie