

Largeflower milkweed

(*Asclepias connivens*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Largeflower milkweed is a perennial wildflower found throughout much of Florida. It blooms in late spring through summer. It occurs naturally in moist pine flatwoods, savannahs and bogs.

Its conspicuous flowers begin as purplish buds, and open into whitish- to yellowish-green, rounded blooms that can be as wide as 1 inch each. Sepals are broad and curve slightly up. Petals are robust and appear hooded. Compared to other milkweeds, the flowers are quite unusual. Leaves are linear in shape, sessile and oppositely arranged. The stem is relatively thick and often leans. Like other milkweeds, it contains a milky sap. The overall greenish color of the plant can make it difficult to spot in its natural setting.

Like all members of the *Asclepias* genus, Largeflower milkweed is a larval host plant for Monarch, Queen and Soldier butterflies. The plant contains a milky latex that is toxic to most animals, but Monarch, Queen and Soldier caterpillars are adapted to feed on them despite the chemical defense.

Family: Apocynaceae (Dogbane family)

Native range: Central to western Panhandle, northeast and central peninsula, Miami-Dade County

To see where natural populations of Largeflower milkweed have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist to nearly wet soil

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: up to 2' tall

Largeflower milkweed is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.



Photo by Emily Bell

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PLANT PROFILE:

