

Milkweed Cheat Sheet for North Central Texas –Updated Version

Telling the four slim-leafed milkweeds apart:

Whorls of leaves: *Asclepias verticillata* ---Usually three to five leaves per junction, but may have mostly pairs with a few whorls
Flowers *white* with *neck* and long *horns*

Paired opposite leaves: *Asclepias linearis*—Never whorled leaves, flowers much like *verticillata*, *white* with *neck* and long *horns* at center of hoods

Alternate leaves, or sometimes opposite leaves: (*regular sized plant*) *Asclepias stenophylla*---Never whorled leaves, flowers *neckless*, hoods have little protrusions but *not centered long horns*. Flowers whitish, but not as white as *verticillata* or *linearis*—more green.

Alternate to almost opposite leaves: (long slim plants up to 48”, and leaves narrow and widely spaced) *Asclepias engelmanniana*---Flowers *green* with small or *no horns* on hoods. Leaves droop and may curl or twist. Leaves can be 8” or more long.

(*Linearis* and *stenophylla* look a lot like *verticillata* with small differences in leaves and flowers (best seen in closeup for differences) *Engelmanniana* looks weird—long and leggy with drooping twisting leaves. Its flowers are almost same as *A. stenophylla*.)

The other five:

Asclepias tuberosa has orange/yellow flowers, and stiff, hairy stems and leaves, prefers acid soils.

Asclepias viridiflora has flower clusters that hang down, hoods clasp crown—color and leaves vary a lot

Asclepias asperula and *Asclepias viridis* are very similar in flower, with spreading club shaped hoods, but *A. asperula* has narrower, pointed leaves and a sprawling habit, and more maroon on hoods. *A. viridis* has oval leaves and is more upright, with lavender hoods. The hoods on *A. asperula* go all the way to the ends of the petals, but hose on *A. viridis* stop well inside the edge of the flower.

Asclepias oenotheroides Recently found in Collin County, more common in the western 2/3 of Texas. Upright to sprawling habit with single or multiple stems. Flowers greenish, in loose clusters, have hoods (with horns) that extend well above the gynostegium. Plant smells **strongly** of burnt rubber when touched.