

Honeyvine Milkweed

Cynanchum laeve

At a Glance

Height: 6 to 10 feet tall (climbing vine)

Bloom Colors: Small white-green clusters

Bloom Time: Summer through fall

Days to Maturity: Perennial, blooms in second year

Best For: Monarch butterfly habitat, pollinator gardens

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 65-75F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, average soil

Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade

Planting Depth: Surface sow or lightly cover

Seeding Rate: Thin to 12-18 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; drought tolerant once established

Average Germination Time: 14-28 days (may benefit from cold stratification)

How to Grow

When to Plant: Sow outdoors in fall or cold-stratify seeds for 30-60 days before spring planting.

Location: Full sun with a trellis or fence for climbing.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; low once established.

Fertilizer: Not needed; thrives in average soils.

Tips for Success

Cold stratification improves germination.

Provide strong vertical support for climbing vines.

Attracts Monarch butterflies for egg-laying.

Cut back in late winter to manage growth.

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Fun Fact

Honeyvine Milkweed is a native host plant for Monarch butterflies, providing essential habitat for caterpillars.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with native wildflowers like coneflowers, asters, and goldenrod for a pollinator-friendly garden.

Harvesting and Use

Primarily ornamental and ecological; leave seed pods to feed wildlife and reseed naturally.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow in fall or cold-stratify seeds
- Provide trellis or fence for climbing
- Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart
- Leave seed pods for Monarch habitat