

## Hemp dogbane

*Apocynum cannabinum* L.

### Life cycle

Erect, patch-forming perennial.

### Leaves

Opposite, narrow oval to egg-shaped, 2 to 5 inches long with smooth margins. The upper leaf surface is usually pale to bluishgreen and smooth; the lower leaf surface may be sparsely hairy. Leaves are smaller than those of common milkweed and exude a milky sap when damaged.

### Stems

Erect, up to 6-foot-tall, slender, hairless, reddish stems are herbaceous and multibranched at the top and semiwoody at the base. Stems exude a milky sap when damaged.

### Flowers and fruit

Small, white to greenish white, bell-shaped flowers are found in flat- to round-topped clusters. Fruit are 4- to 8-inch-long, narrow, reddish brown, sickle-shaped capsules that



Hemp dogbane flower clusters.

## Hemp dogbane *continued*

usually occur in pairs. Pods split open at maturity to release small, spindle-shaped seeds, each with a tuft of long, silky hairs that aid in wind dissemination.

### Reproduction

Seeds, creeping roots and rhizomes.

Hemp dogbane leaf.



Hemp dogbane fruit.

### Similar weeds

#### Spreading dogbane

(*A. androsaemifolium* L.)

Differs by having a preference for a drier habitat, usually shorter height, often drooping leaves and more distinct, usually pinkish white flowers.