

## 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 multi-branched 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 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 flower clusters.*



*Young hemp dogbane plant.*

*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.