

Milkweeds for Moist to Dry Soil and Sunny Locations



Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterfly Weed grows to 2' or so producing brilliant orange flowers in mid-summer and small seed pods later in growing season. Leaves are narrow with a pointed end. Full sun to part sun and dryer is preferred. Multiple plants can be spaced approximately 12" apart to fill in an area quickly.

Butterfly Weed is aptly named. The orange flowers are highly attractive to many species of pollinators in addition to Monarchs. It generally takes 2 years to see the flowers, but some robust individuals may flower in their first year. Our plants are approximately 1' tall and growing well. 2-3 plants per 1-gallon pot.



Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*

Common Milkweed grows 4-5' producing pink flowers in early summer and large seed pods during mid-summer and fall. Large, broad leaves are inviting for Monarch females looking to deposit their eggs.

Full to part sun and dryer soil is preferred. Multiple plants can be spaced approximately 15 to 18" apart to fill in an area quickly. We consider Common Milkweed to be the workhorse of the milkweed world. It comes up easily and grows well. More importantly though is that Monarchs use it readily to feed their caterpillars. We have several patches of it here in the nursery that we transfer caterpillars to when they

start to browse the more ornamental species too heavily. Caterpillars readily transfer to this new food source and continue growing. Our plants are 1'+ tall and have 2-3 plants per 1-gallon container.



Prairie Milkweed, *Asclepias sullivantii*

Grows 4-5' and is best situated in a sunny area that is medium dry to medium moisture. Superficially similar to Common Milkweed but with interesting differences. For one, the leaf is thicker and fleshier than in the Common and two, the flowers are just prettier. They are a soft pink and fewer flowers per bud are produced. The whole effect is much prettier (IMO!) than the Common.

This species tends to stay small and spindly its first year while establishing a deep taproot. Second and subsequent years are when the show begins with a big plant and lots of flowers. Our plants will be approximately a foot tall in a 1-gallon container and will probably be staked to help support them. Multiple plants can be spaced approximately 12" apart to fill in an area quickly.



Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*

Grows 2-3' and slowly spreads without becoming invasive. Whorled Milkweed prefers a sunny to part sun location with medium to dry soil. Small white flowers are borne in mid-summer followed by thin pods. Leaves are very narrow and the whole effect is much like a small pine tree.

We highly recommend it for ease of planting. It has a deep green color and looks great all summer. It's fast growing and some individuals are flowering in their first year. Monarchs readily use it for their young. Our plants are going 1' +/- with 2-3 plants per 1-gallon container. Multiple plants can be spaced

approximately 12" apart to fill in an area quickly. This plant looks terrific massed. It's pine tree appearance with white flowers stands out in the garden.

Milkweeds for Wetter Areas in Full or Partial Sun



Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*

Grows to 4-5' and produces pretty pink flowers from June until mid-August. Leaves are long and narrow with a pointed end.

Full to part sun and moist to wet soil is preferred. Pods are slim and are held upright on the plant. Even though this plant is tall we think closely spaced plants at 12-15" look best. Swamp milkweed is a wonderful plant that can live in a variety of conditions. At our house we have it growing under the overhang of our roof and it has done extremely well. We do irrigate this bed because it never gets natural rain. We've had some individuals flower in their first year while most do not. It's a robust grower and blooms from early June until mid-August. It is a popular hostplant for caterpillars. Our plants are going 1-3' and may even have flower buds. 2-3 plants per pot.

Milkweeds for Moist Soils in Shadier Areas



Poke Milkweed, *Asclepias exaltata*

Poke Milkweed grows 4 to 5' and slowly spreads without becoming invasive. Prefers a shady location with a little sun with moist soil. A perfect selection for a location under trees or on the east side of your home that gets morning sun. White flowers are borne in early June and attract native bumblebees and hummingbirds. Eagerly consumed by Monarch caterpillars.

Poke Milkweed grows great for us, but can be a slow grower due to being at home in the shade. The fix? Apply fertilizer once a month and that will get them going. We will have a limited number of pots of Poke for our 2022 campaigns but we're already starting next years crop so that we have a bunch. We will continue to display this species on the order form until we run out of it so if you see it here, we still have it in stock. We anticipate that our plants will be 6-12" at delivery time but already many are larger than that. Some have even bloomed already in their first year from a seed. Multiple plants can be spaced approximately 12" apart to fill in an area quickly. Multiple plants can be spaced approximately 12" apart to fill in an area quick 2-3 plants per 1-gallon container.