

Wisconsin's Milkweeds

Wisconsin is home to a wonderful diversity of native plants, including 12 species of milkweeds (*Asclepias*). These plants display a variety of colors, heights, and densities, but milkweeds all share their distinctive milky sap, smooth-edged leaves, and woody pods that contain hundreds of silky-haired seeds. Their flowers are very unique: five petals fold downward, exposing a crown of hoods and horns that surround the flower's reproductive parts containing nectar and pollen.

Milkweeds are also notable for their importance in supporting the beautiful, charismatic monarch butterfly. Monarch adults will lay their eggs ONLY on milkweed, and their caterpillars will ONLY eat milkweed leaves (except in very unusual circumstances). Monarchs are experiencing dramatic declines and the best way for you to help is to plant milkweeds. Common, Swamp, and Butterfly milkweed are readily available in nurseries; the others may be harder to find but worth the effort! Species that are threatened or endangered should be purchased only from reputable sources, and never collected in the wild.

COMMON



Anita Gould

Asclepias syriaca

Full ☀ Med 💧 Any 🌱
June-August 🌸

SWAMP, RED OR ROSE



Brenna Marsicek

A. incarnata

Full ☀ High 💧 Wet 🌱
June-August 🌸

BUTTERFLY



Brenna Marsicek

A. tuberosa

Full ☀ Med 💧 Drained 🌱
June-August 🌸

WHORLED



Aaron Carlson

A. verticillata

Full ☀ Low 💧 Med-fine 🌱
May-September 🌸

CLASPING-LEAF



Seig Kopinitz

A. amplexicaulis

Full ☀ Low 💧 Sandy 🌱
May-August 🌸

POKE



Kerry Woods

A. exaltata

Full-Part ☀ Med 💧 Rich 🌱
July-August 🌸

☀ Sun 💧 Moisture 🌱 Soil Type 🌸 Bloom time

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