

Plant Milkweeds

You are helping our endangered monarch butterflies and other pollinators through the simple act of growing more milkweed. Milkweeds are the sole host plant for monarchs; monarch butterfly caterpillars will only eat milkweed leaves. Milkweed habitat destruction is one of the causes of the alarming decline of monarchs.

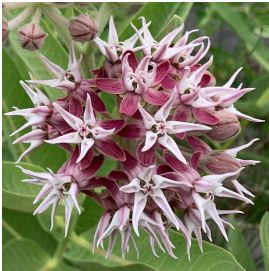
Monarch Butterflies desperately need our help. Now. Their population has [declined 85% in two decades](#) and they are heading toward extinction. This year the [International Union for Conservation of Nature listed the monarch butterfly as an endangered species](#). You have taken action by bringing home your little milkweed pot(s) to care for it over the winter. Thank you for making a difference.

Get started by looking at our latest garden [step-by-step guide for creating monarch habitat](#) - from a container to a large garden. Every action, no matter how small, creates change.

Check out our [new monarch support webpage](#) to see five simple actions you can take to help our endangered monarch butterflies. Learn more about the amazing monarch butterfly in our [November 2022 newsletter](#).

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Milkweeds for Ardsley

Swamp Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3'-5' tall, erect clump forming perennial that grows from a taproot and offers gorgeous pink blooms during mid to late summer. Fuzzy seedpods in fall. Likes moist soil but can tolerate average (but not dry) soil. Full sun. Deer resistant.	Supports: Monarch, red admiral, American lady, painted lady, swallowtail, fritillary, and hairstreak butterflies. Bumblebees, honeybees, hummingbird moths, Hummingbirds seek the floral nectar. Larval host food for the Monarch butterfly, Milkweed Tussock Moth, Dogbane Tiger Moth, Queen, Unexpected Cycnia.
Showy Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	2'-4' tall, erect clump forming perennial that is very similar to common milkweed but less aggressive. Not native to NY – native to the Midwest and west. Gorgeous fragrant pink blooms during mid summer. Fuzzy seedpods and yellow foliage in fall. Likes average to dry soil. Full sun. Deer resistant.	Supports: Monarch, red admiral, American lady, painted lady, swallowtail, fritillary, and hairstreak butterflies. Bumblebees, honeybees, hummingbird moths, and hummingbirds seek the floral nectar. Larval host food for the Monarch butterfly, Milkweed Tussock Moth, Dogbane Tiger Moth, Queen, Unexpected Cycnia.

Common Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	2'-4' tall, erect clump forming, frisky perennial that offers gorgeous pink blooms during mid summer. Fuzzy seedpods in fall. Likes well drained soil and must have full sun. Can be aggressive in small gardens so beware, but essential for the Monarch butterfly. Deer resistant.	Supports: Monarch, red admiral, American lady, painted lady, swallowtail, fritillary, and hairstreak butterflies. Bumblebees, honeybees, hummingbird moths, and hummingbirds seek the floral nectar. Larval host food for the Monarch butterfly, Milkweed Tussock Moth, Dogbane Tiger Moth, Queen, Unexpected Cynia
Whorled Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	1'-3', White flowers, summer bloomer, blooming later than most milkweeds. A milkweed that will take part sun and dry soil. Likes sandy or rocky soil. A fairly well-behaved milkweed. Deer and rabbit resistant. Good choice for a border or perennial garden.	Attracts butterflies, special value to native bees and the host plant of the Monarch Butterfly.

Butterfly Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Bright orange flowers in summer on the 1.5'-2' plant. Plant in well-drained sand, loam, clay, or limestone. Full sun, dry to average soil. Easy. Deer resistant. Fuzzy milkweed pods in the fall. A superstar. Once planted it does not move easily – will probably die if moved so choose the site carefully.	Supports: Monarch, red admiral, American lady, painted lady, swallowtail, fritillary, and hairstreak butterflies. Bumblebees, honeybees, hummingbird moths, and hummingbirds seek the floral nectar. Larval host food for the Monarch butterfly, Milkweed Tussock Moth, Dogbane Tiger Moth, Queen, Unexpected Cynia Supports conservation biological control.
Poke Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias exaltata</i>	A milkweed that will take part shade to shade! 2'-6', white flowers in summer. Avg moisture and organic soil. Deer resistant. Can be frisky.	Attracts butterflies, special value to bees and host plant of the Monarch Butterfly.

Purple Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Deep magenta red flowers on this 2'-3' plant in late spring/early summer, Sun, Dry soil. Deer and rabbit resistant. May be harder to find.	Attract butterflies. Special value to native bees, bumble bees and honey bees. Supports conservation biological control. Larval host food for the Monarch butterfly.
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List of New York Native Milkweed Species

[Butterfly Weed, Asclepias](#)

[tuberosa](#)

[Clasping milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[amplexicaulis](#)

[Common milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[syrriaca](#)

[Fourleaf milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[quadrifolia](#)

[Green comet milkweed,](#)

[Asclepias viridiflora](#)

[Poke milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[exaltata](#)

[Purple milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[purpurascens](#)

[Red milkweed, Asclepias rubra](#)

[Redring milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[variegata](#)

[Swamp milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[incarnata](#)

[Whorled milkweed, Asclepias](#)

[verticillata](#)