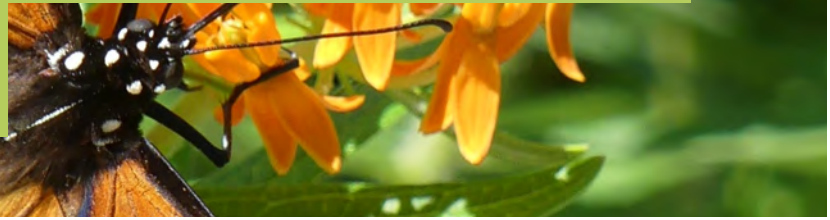


# Planting Milkweed for Monarchs



One of the factors causing the catastrophic drop in monarch butterfly numbers—a 90% decline in the past 20 years—is the loss of milkweed from the landscape. **Female monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed and monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed, which makes this plant crucial for the survival of monarch populations.**

We can all help sustain monarchs and their incredible 2,000-mile migration to Mexico by planting milkweed in our backyards, window boxes, or planters. **Bonus: planting milkweed will attract many other species of butterflies and bees to your garden!**

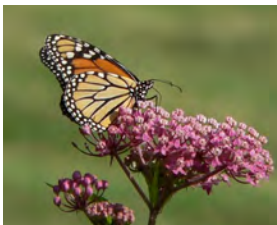
## Milkweed Species for the Northeast



**Common Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) Fragrant pink pompom-shaped flowers bloom in summer. May be aggressive for groomed gardens but does well in naturalized plantings and wilder areas of the yard. Grow in full sun in average/dry soil; combine with other tough prairie plants like Black-eyed Susan and Goldenrod.



**Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) Beautiful orange flowers bloom in early summer. A well-behaved, clumping plant which grows to only 2-3', making it suitable for even formal gardens. Thrives in open, sunny positions in medium/dry soils. Beautiful combined with Coneflower, Tickseed and shorter native grasses like Little Bluestem and Prairie Dropseed.



**Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*) Blooms mid-late summer. A tall plant, growing to 4-5', with pink, vanilla-scented flowers. Great for sunny, moist areas of the garden; or next to streams and ponds. Will tolerate drier soils with supplemental watering.



**Please Note:** Milkweed plants are food for caterpillars but poisonous to humans. Do not get milkweed sap on your skin or in your eyes. Milkweed is also toxic if eaten, so keep plants away from young children and pets.

**For more information on pollinators, visit [bit.ly/WLTbees](http://bit.ly/WLTbees).**