



photos: Dan Jaffe

# BUTTERFLY WEED

*Asclepias tuberosa*

This stunning perennial provides a pop of bright orange color and is a host plant for monarch butterflies.

*Species listed as Potentially Extirpated in Maine.*

## Growing Information

**Sunlight** Full Sun  
**Soil Type** Dry to medium-wet, well-drained soils; drought tolerant  
**Height** 1–3'  
**Deer resistant**  
**Flowering calendar** June to August  
 Has a deep tap root. Best to leave undisturbed once established.

## Benefits for Wildlife

**Leaves** Host plant for monarch larvae  
**Flowers** Nectar source for adult monarch butterflies and many other pollinators  
**Fruit** No  
**Seeds** No  
**Host to 10 caterpillar species:**  
*(common names)* Monarch; Isabella Tiger Moth; Cecropia Silk Moth; Delicate Cynia; Milkweed Tussock Moth; Lined Ruby Tiger Moth; Striped

Garden Caterpillar Moth; Fall Armyworm Moth; Hitched Arches; Stalk Borer

## Benefits for People

- Drought tolerant
- Seed pods are tapered and are valued in dried flower arrangements
- Sometimes referred to as pleurisy root as it was used to treat lung inflammation

## Natural Habitat

- Fields, roadsides, and dry/rocky opens woods

