



photos: Dan Jaffe

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

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.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Host plant for monarch larvae
- Nectar source for adult monarch butterflies and many other pollinators, including bees and wasps

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

Growing Information

Sunlight	Full Sun
Soil Type	Dry to medium-wet, well-drained soils; drought tolerant
Height	1–3'
Width	1–2'
Flowering calendar	June to August

Has a deep tap root. Best to leave undisturbed once established. Deer resistant

Natural Habitat

- Fields, roadsides, and dry/rocky open woods

MAINE
AUDUBON

