



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

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

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

## Natural Habitat

- Fields, roadsides, and dry/rocky opens woods

