



Top Photo: Lucy Bradley, CC0  
Bottom Photo: NC State Extension

# Common Milkweed

*Asclepias syriaca*

Light:	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Soil:	Sand, Loam, Clay
Moisture:	Dry, Medium
Benefits:	Pollinators, Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Host Plant
Height:	2'-4'
Blooms:	Jun, Jul, Aug
Zones:	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Color:	Pink, Lavender
Spacing:	1'
Root:	Rhizome

Monarch butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed plants. The larvae will feed on the leaves and then mature into a chrysalis. In addition, the flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and pollinators.

Common milkweed is easily propagated by seeds and rhizome cuttings and will usually bloom in its second year. It is ideal in semi-dry places where it can spread without presenting problems for other ornamental species. Water as needed the first year to improve survival and get plants into the ground to develop enough root growth to survive the winter.