

## Save the Monarch butterflies. Plant Milkweed.

Milkweeds are the only plant Monarch caterpillars will eat. Man has destroyed the fields that once provided food for migrating Monarchs. Home gardeners need to come to the rescue. Plant a group of milkweed! You will be rewarded. Here are three natives that can thrive in your garden.



Swamp Milkweed



Common Milkweed

The native is bright orange but well-mannered cultivars are available in white and yellow.



Butterfly Weed

**SWAMP MILKWEED, *Asclepias incarnata***, Height up to 6 ft., Flowers May-June, Likes moisture and will grow in tidal areas. It can tolerate drought. It has pinkish flowers and is seen in ditches and along shorelines.

**COMMON MILKWEED, *Asclepias syriaca***, Height up to 6 ft., Flowers May-August, Will take moisture or drought. It is seen in fields and on roadsides. Has pale purple fragrant flowers. Large thick leaves.

**BUTTERFLYWEED, *Asclepias tuberosa***, Height 1-3 ft., Flowers May-July, Likes well-drained areas. Its taproot does not transplant well but seedlings are easy to establish if the conditions are right. Once established will spread. Bright orange flowers.

Reference: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed. <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/toc.htm>