



Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca

Plant Description – Native, herb/wildflower, deciduous, perennial

Height: 2 – 3 ft **Width/Spread:** 0.75 – 1 ft



Leaves

Shape: Ovate/Elliptical

Arrangement: Opposite

Margin: Entire/Smooth

Form: Simple

Leaf Description: Shape varies from oval to elliptical; slightly pointed at the tip; 4-4.75 inches long and 2-4 inches wide; Darker green on the top; Under side of the leaf is lighter green and slightly hairy; midrib is light pink or white; veins do not reach the edge of the leaf; hairy stem

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: Pinkish purple

Flower Shape: Stellate (star-shaped)

In Bloom: Jun-Aug

Flower Description: Clusters of more than 30 flowers each form rounded drooping domes up to 2 inches across; individual flowers are 0.5 inches across with 5 downward pointing petals and a 5 part crown



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds and Rhizomes/Tubers/Roots & Shoots

Seed Type: Fruit – Dry Seed Pod

Months in Seed: Summer/Fall

Fruit and Seed Description: Flat brown seeds with silky attachments are contained in bumpy green pods up to 5 inches long

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; Plant can spread aggressively; Flowers can be cut for an indoor vase; Dried seed pods often used in flower arrangements; Plant will likely get aphids which can be left on the plant for ladybugs to eat; To remove unwanted pests, spray the plant with soapy water, or blast the plant with a high-pressure stream of water; Prefers average watering (*water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year*)

Ecological Benefits

Food source for Butterflies, Caterpillars (Monarch), Native Bees, Other Birds, and Other Pollinators