



# Butterfly Milkweed

*Asclepias tuberosa*

**Plant Description** – native, herb/wildflower, deciduous, perennial

**Height:** 1 – 1.5 ft **Width/Spread:** 1 – 2.5 ft



## Leaves

**Shape:** lanceolate

**Arrangement:** alternate

**Margin:** entire

**Form:** simple

**Leaf Description:** up to 0.75 inches wide and 2 - 4 inches long, shiny green, pointed, smooth above and velvety beneath; stems are hairy, erect, and grow in clumps

## Flower/Bloom

**Flower Color:** bright orange to yellow-orange

**In Bloom:** May - Sep

**Flower Shape:** stellate (star-shaped)

**Flower(s) Description:** flat-topped clusters of flowers 2-5 inches across are at the top of the flowering stem; each flower has 5 petals bent downward, topped by a crown of 5 erect hoods, each one containing a short horn



## Fruits & Seeds

**Spreads via:** Seeds & Rhizomes

**Seed Type:** Dry seed pod

**Seed Season:** Late Summer – early Fall

**Fruit and Seed Description:** spindle-shaped, grayish-green seed pods are 4-8 inches long, flat, oval, brown, and covered in short hairs; split open when ripe, releasing numerous seeds each having a tuft of long white hairs at the tip

## Ecological Benefits

Food source for Butterflies, Caterpillars (Grey Hairstreak, Monarch, Queen), Native Bees, and Hummingbirds

## Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; may take plant up to two years to flower; Remove dead parts after seed pods split open; prefers average watering