

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Asclepias syriaca

## Common Milkweed



Common roadside plant, but worthy of inclusion in the garden. (Be aware, though, that it will spread.) Grey-green foliage, creamy-pink, fragrant flowers borne in large, rounded clusters. Seedpods are attractive all winter. Attracts butterflies, and, with the other milkweeds, is the host plant for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars.

**Suggested companions:** little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), asters (*Aster* sp.), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin state Herbarium,  
by Kitty Kohout

Plant Type: Wildflower

Size: 3-5' H  
W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:  
Open field/ Prairie

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Sandy/ Gravelly  
Clay

Exposure: sun  
filtered

Flower Color:  
Pink  
Purple

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:  
June  
July  
August

Other Attributes:  
Fragrant  
Butterfly attracting  
Bird attracting  
Winter interest