

Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Milkweed Family

Other Common Names: orange milkweed, butterfly weed

Scientific Name: *Asclepias tuberosa* L.

Plant Symbol: ASTU

Distinguishing characteristics: brick red or orange flowers; hairy stem; long and narrow leaves with smooth leaf margins; sap not milky like other milkweed species.

Plant Height: up to 2.5 ft.

Blooms/Fruits: May–October

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous (from rootstock tuberous)

Pollinator Value: Larval host plant for monarch butterfly. The plant is very attractive to butterflies because it is a high quality nectar source.

Habitat: Upland; sandy, loamy, or rocky limestone soils

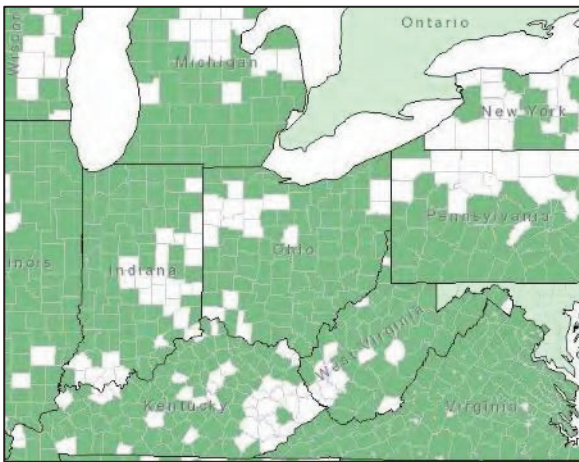


Photo: Edith Bettinger, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Seedling



Photo: Lillian G. Flaigg, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Early flowering/close-up view of flower



Full flowering



Fruit



Mature fruit with seed