

Wisconsin's Milkweeds

Wisconsin is home to a wonderful diversity of native plants, including 12 species of milkweeds (*Asclepias*). These plants display a variety of colors, heights, and densities, but milkweeds all share their distinctive milky sap, smooth-edged leaves, and woody pods that contain hundreds of silky-haired seeds. Their flowers are very unusual: five petals fold downward, exposing a crown of hoods and horns that surround the flower's reproductive parts containing nectar and pollen.

Milkweeds are also notable for their importance in supporting the beautiful, charismatic monarch butterfly. Monarch adults will lay their eggs ONLY on milkweed, and their caterpillars will ONLY eat milkweed leaves (except in very unusual circumstances). Monarchs are experiencing dramatic declines and the best way for you to help is to plant milkweeds. Common, Swamp, and Butterfly milkweed are readily available in nurseries; the others may be harder to find but worth the effort! Species that are threatened or endangered should be purchased only from reputable sources, and never collected in the wild.

COMMON



Asclepias syriaca

Full ☀ Med 💧 Any 🌱
June-August 🌸

Anita Gould

SWAMP, RED OR ROSE



A. incarnata

Full ☀ High 💧 Wet 🌱
June-August 🌸

Brenna Majsicek

BUTTERFLY



A. tuberosa

Full ☀ Med 💧 Drained 🌱
June-August 🌸

Brenna Majsicek

WHORLED




A. verticillata

Full ☀ Low 💧 Med-fine 🌱
May-September 🌸

Aaron Carlson

CLASPING-LEAF




A. amplexicaulis

Full ☀ Low 💧 Sandy 🌱
May-August 🌸

Seig Kopintz

POKE



A. exaltata

Full-Part ☀ Med 💧 Rich 🌱
July-August 🌸

Kerry Woods

TALL GREEN



Joshua Mayer

A. hirtella

Full ☀ Med 💧 Drained 🌱
June-August 🌸

**GREEN FLOWERED
OR SHORT GREEN**

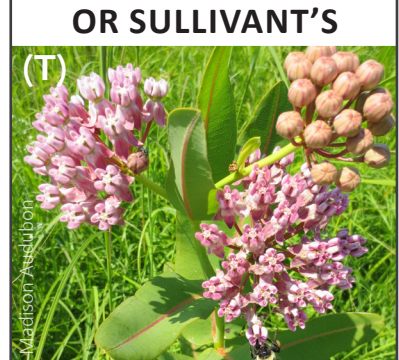


Brett Whaley

A. viridiflora

Full ☀ Low 💧 Dry 🌱
July 🌸

**PRAIRIE, SMOOTH
OR SULLIVANT'S**



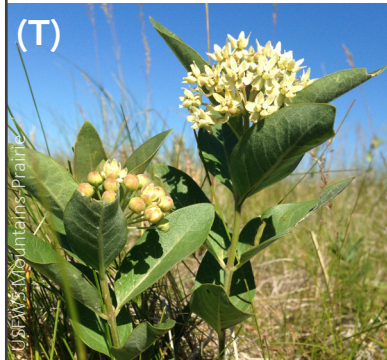
Madison Aschubon

(T)

A. sullivantii

Full ☀ Med 💧 Drained 🌱
June-August 🌸

DWARF OR OVAL-LEAF



Justin Mountains-Prairie

(T)

A. ovalifolia

Full-Part ☀ Dry 💧 Sandy 🌱
June-August 🌸

WOOLLY




Paul Schilke

(T)

A. lanuginosa

Full ☀ Low 💧 Drained 🌱
June-July 🌸

PURPLE



Danny Barron

(E)

A. purpurescens

Full-Part ☀ Med 💧 Drained 🌱
June-July 🌸

T: State Threatened E: State Endangered

Working hard for monarchs

The **Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative** is a partnership between dozens of agencies, organizations, industries, and individuals throughout the state working together to protect monarchs.

In 2019, the Collaborative created a statewide Monarch Conservation Strategy, and is working hard to implement it, with the goal of adding more than 119,000,000 stems of milkweed on the ground before 2038.

You can help! Plant milkweed in your yard, community, and natural areas to protect both the diversity and abundance of milkweeds in our state, and the monarchs which rely on them. Learn more at our website, wimonarchs.org

wimonarchs.org

WISCONSIN
MONARCH
COLLABORATIVE

