

BUTTERFLY WEED

ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

Size

1 - 3' high, 1.0 – 1.5' wide

Sun/Shade

Full Sun

Water

Dry to Medium

Maintenance

Low

Life Span

Herbaceous Perennial, Zones 3-9

Description

Asclepias tuberosa, also known as Butterfly Weed and Pleurisy Root, is an herbaceous perennial species of milkweed grown in full sun and in dry to medium with tuberous roots. These tap roots are deep and do best if not disturbed after establishing. It also propagates by self-seeding. The leaves are a good food source for the Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar. Unlike other milkweeds, these stems do not ooze a milky sap. Butterfly Weed blooms June through August with clusters of orange/yellow flowers that turn to 3 – 6" long warty seed pods. Once these seed pods ripen, they split open releasing their silky tailed seed to the wind to live again. This plant is a slow grower and may take 2 to 3 years to produce flowers. It is found in open fields and woods as well as suitable for rain gardens. It attracts butterflies and is deer resistant. In poor drainage areas, it is susceptible to crown rot but has no serious insect or disease problems.

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](https://www.missouri.edu/~mrb001/botany/botany.htm)



Have questions or need help?
Contact us at GreenHelpLine@gmail.com.

