



- The Monarch butterfly, one of North America's most amazing creatures, relies solely upon Milkweed for its survival. Female Monarch butterflies are drawn to Milkweed, the only type of plant they'll lay their eggs on. The toxins found in Milkweed, when ingested by caterpillars, create a defense mechanism that makes them unpalatable to predators. Unfortunately,

see Milkweed as an same toxins that may eaten. For many gardeners, an unwanted guest in their weeded out. Due to this on Milkweed, and the habitat to face, the Monarch butterfly in population since 2004 - to reverse this trend, more our gardens and landscapes.



many farmers and landowners unwelcome pest due to these endanger their animals if Milkweed is nothing more than flower beds that must be prevalent negative perspective loss that Milkweed continues has suffered a critical decline 2005. To stop, and even begin Milkweed must be added to Many others have already

started to do their part by planting more [Milkweed for Monarchs](#), but much more is needed. You can join the movement and help to save the Monarchs by planting Milkweed! Parsons' Gardens has several types of Milkweed to choose from and we'd love to help you select the varieties that will perfectly fit into your outdoor space!

- Jay Parsons



Butterfly Weed - *Asclepias tuberosa*

* 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year *

- Height: 2-3 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Orange
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host Plant for Monarch Butterfly



Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June & July - Color: Pink & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly



Poke Milkweed - *Asclepias exaltata*

- Height: 3-5 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Iowa & Minnesota
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Partial Sun in Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pinkish White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly





Prairie Milkweed - *Asclepias sullivantii*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Medium to Wet Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Lavender & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly



Purple Milkweed - *Asclepias purpurascens*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: May, June, & July - Color: Purple
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly



Spider Milkweed - *Asclepias viridis* * 2015 Kansas Wildflower of the Year *

- Height: 1-2 feet - Width: 2-3 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: May & June - Color: Creamy White & Purple
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly





Swamp Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnata*

- Height: 3-5 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas & Missouri
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Fibrous Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Medium to Wet Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pink & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly



* The following sources were used when gathering information & pictures for this native plant list:
- www.kansasnativeplants.com - www.plants.usda.gov - www.prairiemoon.com - www.prairienursery.com -