

Native Milkweed (*Asclepias*) Species Common to Mississippi



Asclepias amplexicaulis
CLASPING MILKWEED



Asclepias lanceolata
FEWFLOWER MILKWEED



Asclepias longifolia
LONGLEAF MILKWEED



Asclepias michauxii
MICHAX'S MILKWEED



Asclepias perennis
SWAMP MILKWEED

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Milkweeds are a major source of nectar for insects such as butterflies and beetles and are the larval food plants of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). At least 15 species of milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) are native to Mississippi. In order to support monarch populations and migrations, it is recommended that species native to the state be planted. Most Mississippi milkweed species bloom from late spring through early summer, although some, such as *A. lanceolata*, persist during the hot summer months.

Although the common orange-blooming *A. tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed) is well-known to gardeners, there are many other native *Asclepias* species deserving of wider garden use. Some species are becoming more widely known, and increasingly available in the nursery trade. By becoming acquainted with a property's specific environmental conditions, species best-suited to the site may then be selected. In general, milkweeds native to moist or wetland habitats are easier to grow than those originating from dry sites.



Asclepias tuberosa
BUTTERFLY WEED



Asclepias variegata –
WHITE MILKWEED



Asclepias verticillata –
WHORLED MILKWEED



Asclepias viridiflora
GREEN COMET MILKWEED



Asclepias viridis
GREEN ANTELOPEHORN

Native *Asclepias* Species Rare to Mississippi



Asclepias hirtella
GREEN MILKWEED



Asclepias humistrata
PINEWOODS MILKWEED



Asclepias obovata
PINELAND MILKWEED



Asclepias purpurascens
PURPLE MILKWEED



Asclepias rubra
RED MILKWEED



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