



Milkweed, *Asclepias* spp.



Flowering Period: July-August

Height: 2-4' tall

Bloom Characteristics: 5 parted,

Growth Preferences: moist to wet soils, also great for raingardens!

Milkweed species ensure successful pollen transfer but forming pollinia, bundles of pollen grains, which are strung together and located within the flowering chamber. As an insect travels along the flower searching for nectar a whole bundle will become stuck to the leg of the visitor and then be transferred to the next plant. While bee and wasp species are the primary pollinators, milkweed species are frequented by many other insects including butterflies, moths, ants, and beetles.

Larval Host Plant For: Milkweed species are the only host plant for the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, they provide food sources for both the larvae and adult. The adult monarch also lays her eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves.

Common Visitors:

Butterflies- Small Skipper, Monarch, Fritillaries, Red Admiral, Swallowtails, and Crescent Butterflies

Moths- Hummingbird Clearwing Moth

Wasps- Yellow Jacket, Paper Wasp, Great Golden Digger Wasp

Beetles- Soldier Beetle, Long-Horn Beetles

Bees- Yellow-Faced Bees, Bumble Bees, Honeybee, Sweat Bees, Leaf-cutter Bees

