

Common Milkweed

(Asclepias syriaca)

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Common Milkweed is a flowering perennial plant that is native to the Midwest. Though it has been known as an agricultural pest for many years and was once listed as an Iowa noxious weed, the plant has many beneficial qualities. In particular its role in the reproductive cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

It is likely that many people reading this plant profile have heard something about milkweed plants or Monarchs in the past few months. Unfortunately both species have experienced drastic declines in their populations. There are a variety of reasons for these declines but the largest contributing factor is the loss of areas for them to grow and reproduce.

By allowing milkweed to grow on your property or in the ditches we can take the first steps to helping this plant and the Monarchs it supports rebound.

Common Milkweed Quick Facts:

- Classification: Forb
- Life Cycle: Perennial
- Flower Color: Pink
- Bloom Time: June through August
- Other Traits: Vital for Monarch Butterfly reproduction



Interesting Facts

Noxious or Not?

Common Milkweed was listed as a noxious weed for many years in Iowa but has since been delisted.

Monarch Butterflies

Common Milkweed is vital to the reproduction of Monarch Butterflies. The Monarch will only lay its eggs on plants in the milkweed family. By allowing these plants to persist on private land and in the roadsides, we ensure that the Monarch migration will continue for years to come.