

swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Anthophyta

Class: Dicotyledonae

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The swamp milkweed is a perennial herb. Its stems are upright, branched, smooth and may grow to five feet tall. The stems and leaves have a milky sap. The simple leaves are lance-shaped, up to four inches long and up to one inch wide. Pink flowers are borne in clusters. Flowers are hour-glass shaped and up to one-third inch long. Each seed has long, silky hairs on one end. Seeds are contained in pods, which may be five inches long.

BEHAVIORS

The swamp milkweed grows in swamps, wet ditches and wet meadows. The swamp milkweed flowers from June through September. Its roots provide food for muskrats.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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