



# Common Milkweed

## *Asclepias syriaca*

### Planting Instructions

#### Where to plant?

Zones: 3-10; native to all Illinois counties

Sun: 6+ hours daily

Soil: Well drained



#### How to plant?

Seeds need cold & moist stratification

Naturally by fall planting OR

Artificially by 4-6 weeks in moist substrate in fridge

Plant seeds 1/4" deep in late fall on bare, loose soil OR

Start indoors in flats 4-8 weeks before last frost

Plant in clumps, rather than rows

Germination should take 7-10 days



#### Why plant milkweed?

Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) are vital to the reproduction of Monarch butterflies. In addition to serving as a nectar source for many pollinators, milkweeds are the only host plants that Monarchs will lay their eggs and the sole food source for Monarch caterpillars.

