

Aquatic Milkweed

Asclepias perennis

Not to be confused with swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), aquatic milkweed flowers are white and it is restricted to floodplain forest and along streams. Aquatic Milkweed is a host plant for butterflies and can look defoliated when eaten by host caterpillars. Milkweeds in the genus *Asclepias* provide the only plant material monarch caterpillars can eat. This popular plant hosts many more besides monarchs - queen and soldier butterflies rely on the leaves to feed their young, too.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 8b through 9b

Uses: butterfly garden; pollinator garden

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 1 to 2 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 3 to 5 feet

Light requirement: full shade to part shade

Soil tolerances: sandy loam;
medium drained to wet

Drought tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerances: none

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests

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Photo: UF/IFAS