

Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Not to be confused with aquatic milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*). Aquatic milkweed flowers are white and it is restricted to floodplain forest and along streams. Swamp milkweed flowers are made up of small, rose-purple flowers. Swamp 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: 3a through 9b

Uses: butterfly garden; pollinator garden

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 2 to 4 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: unknown

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests

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INFORMATION**



Photo: Jennifer Anderson,
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database