

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

[Butterfly Milkweed \(*Asclepias tuberosa*\)](#)



Butterfly Milkweed pops with vibrant color. Monarch butterflies are attracted to the bright color and abundant nectar. The butterflies lay their eggs in milkweed because the caterpillars only eat milkweed. Butterfly Milkweed also attracts other butterflies, moths, wasps, and bees. It is animal resistant. Fun facts: Native Americans used the fibers from dried stems to make rope and weave cloth. The pod “fluff” is six times more buoyant than cork and five times as warm as wool.

Sun: full sun, part shade/savanna

Soil: dry, dry-mesic, mesic

Why plant MI native plants? Native plants bring diversity to your yard, increase the diversity of insects, and therefore create a more diverse food chain. They help create a full “circle of life” for insects and hence birds and other animals in the food chain. Native plants use a minimal amount of water, require minimal maintenance, require no chemicals, provide beautiful landscapes, and build a natural wildlife habitat.