

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Asclepias tuberosa* - Butterflyweed**

COMMON NAME: Butterflyweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Pleurisy Root

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Asclepias tuberosa* – Asklepios was the Greek god of healing. The Indians chewed the root as a cure for pleurisy and other pulmonary ailments.

FLOWER COLOR: Orange

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to August

SIZE: 1-3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Long-lived perennial that remains dormant late into spring.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best on well-drained, sandy or gravelly soils. Flowers best in full sun, but tolerates some shade if there is no other plant competition.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Very showy with its bright orange flower clusters, 2-5 inches across at the top of the flowering stem set against the backdrop of its dark green leaves. Superb plant for attracting butterflies. Parachute-like seeds are typical of milkweed plants and germinate easily, but take several years to reach blooming size.

SUGGESTED CARE: Use in a dry site, as it will not survive long in heavier, moist sites with competition from taller species. Easily propagated from root cuttings.

NATURAL RANGE: Minnesota and Wisconsin eastward to New England. South to Florida and Texas; west to Colorado and Nebraska. Common in dry prairie remnants in southern and western Wisconsin.

COMPANION PLANTS: Little bluestem, flowering spurge, blazingstar, wild lupine, rattlesnake master, and spiderwort.