



***Asclepias incarnata* – Red Milkweed**

COMMON NAMES: Red milkweed, swamp milkweed.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Asclepias incarnata* – The genus is named in honor of Aesculapius, Greek god of medicine. Some species have long been used to treat a variety of ailments. *Incarnata* is Latin meaning flesh-colored.

FLOWER COLOR: Deep pink to red

BLOOMING PERIOD: July-September

SIZE: Up to 5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Stems are erect, branching near the top with large terminal clusters of small rose-purple flowers. Flowers are fragrant. The root system consists of a taproot and short rhizomes that promote the vegetative spread of this plant.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun; wet to moist soils in marshes, along streambanks, prairies, sandy, loamy soil. It prefers slightly acidic soil, but will tolerate heavy clay.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies and is the larval host for the Monarch butterfly. The typical milkweed seed pods are attractive.

SUGGESTED CARE: Do not let the soil dry out or the plant will wilt. The seedpods can be collected before they open and dried inside.

NATURAL RANGE: Occurs from Quebec to Manitoba in the north, and South Carolina to New Mexico in the south.

COMPANION PLANTS: Marsh aster, ironweed, Joe-pye weed, sedge meadows and fens.