



Scientific name: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Common name(s): Butterfly Weed/Milkweed/Flower

Family: Apocynaceae (Dogbane)

Native: CO, West, Great Plains, Midwest, South, East

Habitat: Plains, open woodlands, canyons, Pinyon-Juniper

Despite its common name, Butterfly Weed was named Perennial Plant of the Year in 2017. It is a highly adaptable plant, but can be slow to establish and tends to emerge very late in the spring; mark the location of the plant with a rock so as not to dig it up by accident. Butterfly Weed serves as a host plant for Monarch, Grey Hairstreak and Queen butterflies. Combine with Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*), Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*), Narrow-Leaf Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*) and Engelmann's Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*) for a brightly-colored pollinator buffet.

Plant type: Perennial

Elevation: Native range to 7000', cultivated to 8000'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4

Exposure: Full sun

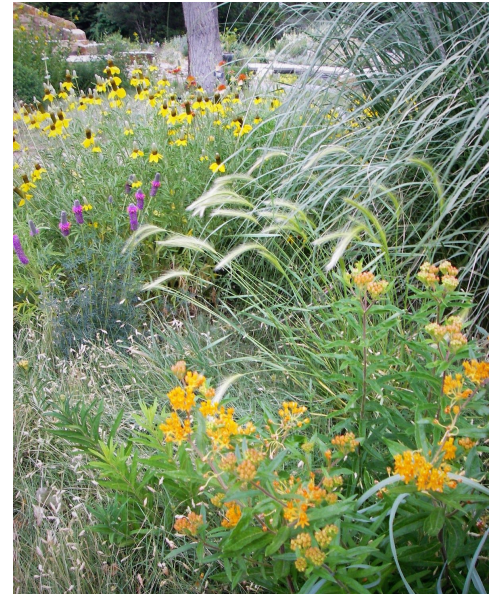
Soil: Well-drained clay, loam or sandy soil (prefers sandy)

Moisture: High, moderate, low, dry

Flower color: Bright orange, yellow

Bloom time: Summer

Mature size (height x width): 18-30" x 1-2'



Propagation: Store the seeds dry at 40°F at least 2 months; no stratification is necessary. Sow when the temperature is above 70°F, preferably 80°F+ at least part of the day. Cover the seeds very lightly to allow light to reach the seeds. Seeds should germinate in 7-10 days if temperatures are high.



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