

## Native Plant of the Month

# Butterflyweed

by Karalyn Lamb

Many gardeners are aware of the importance of planting native milkweed, the sole larval host plant for threatened Monarch butterflies. But it can be difficult to choose the right milkweed for the right place.

Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a compact, adaptable milkweed well-suited for urban/suburban gardens; attracting not only nectaring and egg-laying Monarch butterflies but a diversity of native bees.

## A Beautiful Workhorse Plant

Among the showiest of our native perennials, Butterflyweed's well-behaved, clumping habit and high deer-resistance make it ideal for suburban gardens. It thrives in sunny, well-drained sites and is tough enough to plant next to driveways and sidewalks.



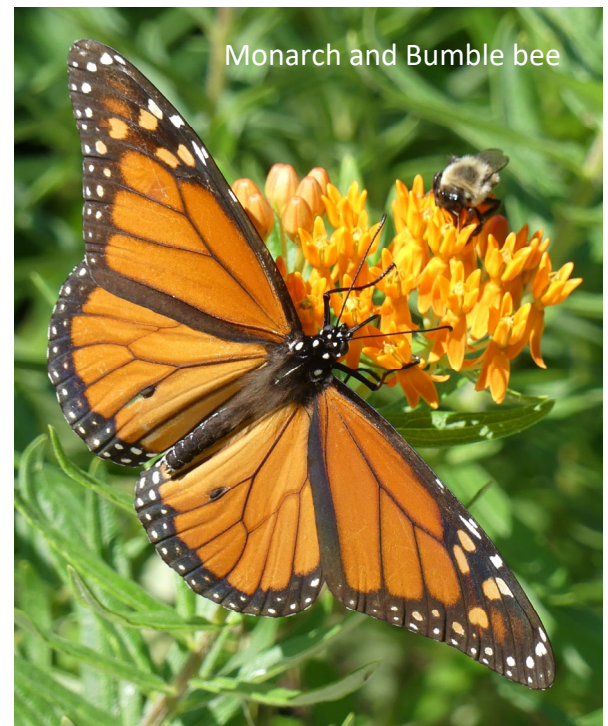
## Butterflies AND Bees

Butterflyweed is a top performer among milkweed species for attracting native bees, according to University of Kentucky research, making it especially good ecological value for pollinator gardens.



## The Edge Effect

Want to attract more Monarchs? Planting Butterflyweed in clumps on the edge of your garden makes it easier for Monarchs to find it, according to recent UK research.



## For More Information

Click [HERE](#) for the University of Kentucky's *Monarch Butterfly Conservation Garden Tips and Tricks Guide*, with links to further research.