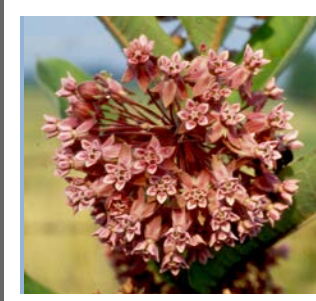


# History & Fun Facts

All of the plants we sell are native to the Ohio area. That means they are adapted and ready to be a beautiful, worry free, addition to your yard!



Milkweed is the only plant that Monarch caterpillars eat. Monarch butterflies are highly attracted to its blossoms and serve as their primary pollinators. The downy parachutes (comas) that are attached to each seed are 6X more buoyant than cork and 5X warmer than wool. Large quantities of milkweed were used as stuffing in pillows and lifejackets during WWII.



## PPGSA

The Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (PPGSA) is a non-profit organization. Funding of the activities are provided through volunteer-based activities, such as charities. PPGSA is not an official part of the Ohio State University, but will nonetheless respect many of the bylaws laid forth by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) when appropriate.

These fliers are brought to you by our Outreach Committee. The main function of this committee is to both create a greater student awareness and understanding of plant pathology in order to broaden the numbers of future plant pathologists in our department and across the country as well as to increase community awareness of the general nature of plant pathology.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## Department of Plant Pathology

201 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Rd.

Columbus, OH 43210

Phone: (614) 292-1375

Fax: (614) 292-4455

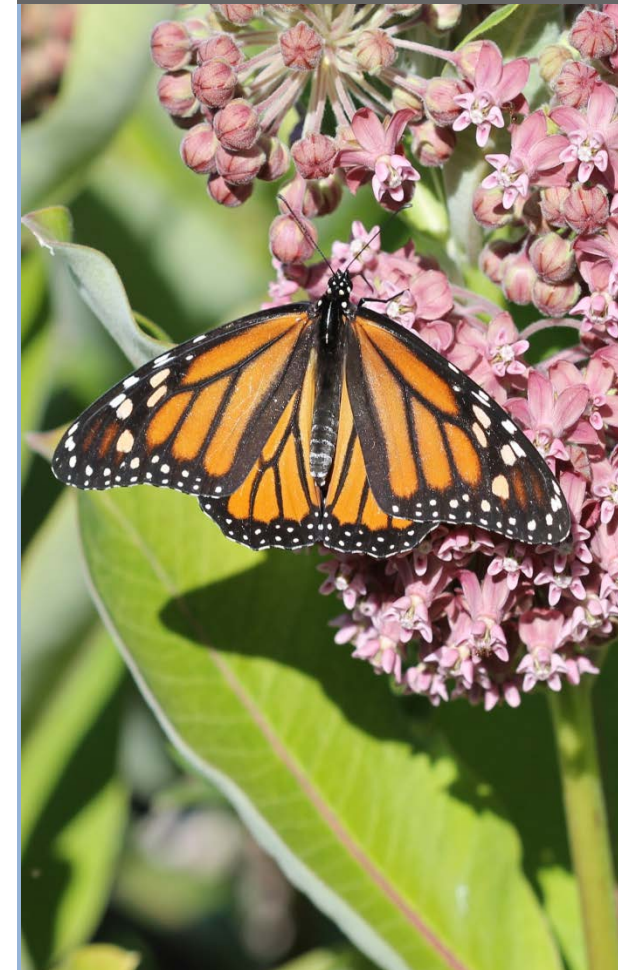
Email: [plantpath@osu.edu](mailto:plantpath@osu.edu)

Visit us online at: [plantpath.osu.edu/](http://plantpath.osu.edu/)

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Dept. of Plant Pathology

# Common Milkweed



# Common Problems

It is important to know the common problems different plants in your garden may experience so that you can better manage the issues and ensure your plants are providing the ascetics you desire.

Common milkweed is often susceptible to harmful pests. Aphids huddle together on new shoots, stems, buds, and leaves. They damage the plant by sucking liquid from the plant, eventually stressing the plant and killing it when infestation is high. Whiteflies are little winged insects that destroy plants when the nymphs suck plant juices and exude a sticky substance that hinders monarch caterpillar's digestion and appetite.



## Plant Requirements and Description

**Mature Height and Spread:**  
4 feet tall

**Growth Rate:**  
Moderate

**Light Requirement:**  
Full Sun or partial shade

**Other Requirements:**  
Soil type: Wet, Wet-Mesic, Mesic  
18-36" apart

### Description:

Common milkweed is a native, perennial, wildflower growing three to six feet tall. It has long, narrow, lance-shaped leaves that progress in pairs up the stem. Bright pink, white and purple clusters of flowers appear in summer at the tops of the stems. In the fall, blooms give way to distinctive tear shaped five-inch seed pods that are green when unripe, but harden to brown. The individual seeds are attached to fluffy hairs that allow the seeds to drift in the wind.

### Management

- For harmful insects: spray insects off the milkweed plant using water. If insect population is high spray milkweed with 10% liquid dish soap mixed with water, wait a few minutes and rinse with fresh water so as not to let soap burn the leaves. Avoid using insecticides as this will also hurt the desired butterflies.
- Keep well watered, and do not allow soil to completely dry out. Rose milkweed does well near bodies of water and tolerates heavy clay soils.
- Cut off milkweed pods to prevent unwanted seeding, or bind them shut with twist ties or rubber bands to collect seeds.

## Sources

- [www.prairiemoon.com/seeds/wildflowers-forbs/asclepias-incarnata-rose-milkweed.html](http://www.prairiemoon.com/seeds/wildflowers-forbs/asclepias-incarnata-rose-milkweed.html)
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