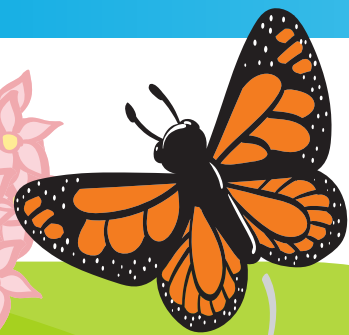


# All About MILKWEED

Milkweed is a flowering plant essential to the life cycle of the monarch, as it is the sole source of food for the caterpillars. The survival of the butterfly depends on the accessibility of this host plant. An important part of Monarch monitoring is to identify and map milkweed in Canada.

Named for its milky white sap. It is a fragrant plant and has many traditional uses, such as using the stems for making rope and textiles. Most species will flower from June to August.



## **Dwarf Milkweed** *Asclepias ovalifolia*

**Flower colour:** White

**Height:** Single stem grows 60cm tall

**Appearance:** flowers arranged in loose cluster. Leaves are opposite and egg shaped, with fine hairs underneath.

**Habitats:** parklands and prairies

## **Swamp Milkweed** *Asclepias incarnata*

**Flower colour:** Pink

**Height:** 30-150cm tall

**Appearance:** flowers occur in clusters; the leaves are opposite and lance-shaped with smooth edges.

**Habitats:** forests, prairies, roadsides, wetlands

## **Showy Milkweed** *Asclepias speciosa*

**Flower colour:** Pink

**Height:** Grows 150cm tall

**Appearance:** flowers occur in umbrella shaped clusters. Leaves are opposite and oval-shaped with noticeable veins.

**Habitats:** Prairies, roadsides, streambanks

## **Whorled Milkweed** *Asclepias verticillate*

**Flower colour:** White or Green

**Flowering Months:** May to September

**Height:** Grows 50cm tall

**Appearance:** small flowers occur in flat topped cluster at the upper stem. Narrow, linear leaves are whorled along the stem.

**Habitats:** woodland, dry fields, roadsides

## **Green Milkweed** *Asclepias viridiflora*

**Flower colour:** Green or White

**Flowering Months:** June to August

**Height:** Grows 80cm tall

**Appearance:** small greenish-white flower clusters; has broad, opposite leaves that are blunt at both ends.

**Habitats:** woodlands, dry prairie hillsides, roadsides



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