

**Common Names:**

Butterfly Weed

Plant Type: Perennial**Light Requirements:**

Full Sun

Height: 1ft - 2.5ft**Bloom Time:** Summer**Hardiness Zones:** 3-9

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)

Butterfly weed is an herbaceous perennial in the milkweed (Apocynaceae, formerly Asclepidaceae) family. It is native to the Eastern United States, and like other milkweeds, is a larval host plant for the monarch butterfly as well as a nectar source for many types of pollinators.

Butterfly weed grows best in full sun. They can handle dry, rocky, or sandy soils, as long as the soil is well-draining. Once established, butterfly weed is quite drought tolerant. Its long tap root can reach far into the soil to find the moisture it needs. Butterfly weed does not transplant well due to this long taproot, so it's best to site the plant carefully. Mature plants spread by way of seed dispersal on the wind, much like common milkweed.

Butterfly weed blooms in mid-late summer and has bright orange flowers, though newer cultivars have been bred with yellow or red flowers. It is generally deer resistant, though rabbits may nibble the leaves.

References:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/asclepias_tuberosa.shtml

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/asclepias-tuberosa/>

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/butterflyweed-asclepias-tuberosa/>