



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Asclepias curassavica*
- Common Name: Milkweed, Mexican Butterfly Weed
- Plant Family: Apocynaceae
- Mature Size: 3 ft
- Growth Habit: Upright Open Wildflower-Like
- Bloom Color: Yellow, Orange, Red
- Bloom Form: Cyme (Flower in a flower)
- Bloom Time: Year round
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Best in full sun
- Recommended Zones: 8B, 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Colorful butterfly host plant
- Suggested Uses: Butterfly Gardens Mixed Perennials
- Growers Notes : **All parts are considered toxic***



If you have purchased these plants for a habitat area, please note we recommend all plants for habitat use, from any source, be quarantined for 30 days before introducing them into the habitat.

Asclepias or Tropical Milkweed is an upright, open growing flowering perennial native to the American tropics. It is cultivated worldwide for its showy flowers and ability to attract butterflies, especially Monarchs and Queens.

Plants grow fast and upright, and generally mature between 3 and 4 feet tall. The narrow, oblong, pointed lance-shaped, leaves grow in opposite pairs, spaced out along pale gray green stems filled with a milky sap. Flowers are composed of a bright ring of sepals in either yellow, orange, or red and crowned by a gold, yellow-orange corolla.

Milkweed is easy to grow, will thrive in a wide range of soil types, and is quite drought tolerant once well established. Flowers begin to appear in mid to late spring and continue almost year round. It is generally evergreen in Zones 9B, 10, 11. In Zones 9A and 8B, well established plants will generally freeze to the ground and re-sprout in the spring.

The flowers are attractive to butterflies, especially Monarchs. It's a great choice for butterfly gardens, mixed perennial beds and borders, or pots, and requires little care or maintenance.

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage branching and shape.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilizer with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Plant Butterfly Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Please note that we are a fully licensed and certified commercial mail order nursery, and among the few online sellers who really are legally certified to ship to all 50 states, as such, are required by law to treat all plants immediately prior to shipping to assure that we do not inadvertently transfer pests or disease into other states.

Generally, we use short acting, low toxicity products that will protect the plant for 7 to 14 days at most, and can be washed away with soap and water. However, we recommend that all serious butterfly enthusiasts quarantine all plants *from any source (including those represented as being untreated or from 'organic' growers)* for a 30 day period before introducing them into the habitat.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

Ornamental Plants sold by Emerald Goddess Gardens are intended for use as ornamental decorative items only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend or endorse any other use.