



## Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Asclepis perennis*
- Common Name: White Swamp Milkweed
- Plant Family: Asclepiadociaea
- Mature Size: 2 ft.
- Growth Habit: Clustered, Unbranched Stems
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Form: Cyme
- Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer
- Water Needs: High
- Light Needs: Partial Shade
- Recommended Zones: 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Attracts Monarch Butterfly
- Suggested Uses: Butterfly Gardens, Mixed Perennials
- Growers Notes : White Swamp Milkweed grows best in very moist soil, it will tolerate standing water for short periods.



***Asclepis perennis*** or **White Swamp Milkweed** is similar to others in the Milkweed family; its cymes of flowers attract butterflies. This is ,however, an unusual characteristic for a white flowering plant as pollinators are not typically drawn to this color. It is easy to confuse this species with the aggressive Swamp Milkweed, but the two are quite different. White Swamp Milkweed has an easily manageable growth habit and does not spread prolifically.

White Swamp Milkweed is native to the sloughs of the Southern United states and can be found growing in many wet areas down to the Gulf Coast. As its name implies, this plant prefers swampy soil conditions where water fluctuation intermittently saturates the soil. In contrast to other members of the milkweed family, White Swamp Milkweed does not produce fluffy seeds designed for transport via air. Instead, its seeds appear to have small wings that allow them to float on top of water and be carried to their next location.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter plants is not recommended as they are often fragile and require subtle acclimation to new climates. For the highest chances of success with your new White Swamp Milkweed, follow these helpful tips:

- 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 fertilize 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 [service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com](mailto:service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com)

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at [emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)

\*\*\* This plant is intended for use as an ornamental, decorative item only. Plants contain compounds that are scientifically validated as biologically active, and should therefore be considered toxic. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommended nor endorse the use of ornamental plants for homeopathic treatments, herbal remedies, spiritual experience enhancement, or recreation.

## 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 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 products such as Neem Oil 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 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 repot 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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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.