

# Do It Yourself Garden Projects

## BLACKGOLD®

### Nine Prettiest Garden Milkweeds for Monarch Butterflies!

Lots of gardeners don't realize how many beautiful milkweeds there are for the garden. Each easy-to-grow milkweed is pretty and attracts monarch butterflies. Some even bloom all summer!



JESSIE KEITH

Sun Gro Horticulture Gardening Expert

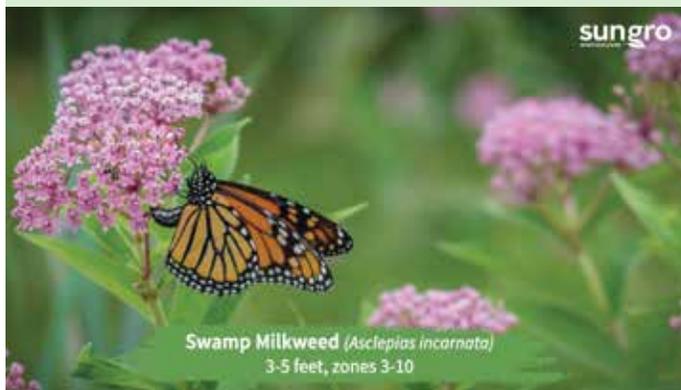
**1:** In summer, Eastern native butterflyweed becomes aflame with broad clusters of orange flowers. Garden varieties may have gold or reddish-orange flowers. 'Hello Yellow' is a good gold-flowered form. Cut off the old flowers to encourage reblooming.



**2:** Bloodflower is an everblooming milkweed native of the tropical Americas, so it likes heat. The upright plants have orange-red and gold flowers. They survive as annuals but will self-sow.



**3:** Swamp milkweed likes average garden soil as well as moisture. The North American perennial has clusters of rosy pink or pale pink flowers. 'Ice Ballet' is a nice white-flowered variety.



**4:** Purple milkweed is less common at garden centers, but it's a real beauty with its round summer clusters of reddish-purple flowers and big, bold green leaves.



**5:** The western whorled milkweed has very fine leaves and milky white flower clusters in summer. It is delicate and pretty in a butterfly wildflower garden.



**6:** Big silvery leaves and large clusters of rose-pink and silver flowers make this tall, western milkweed a real standout in the garden.

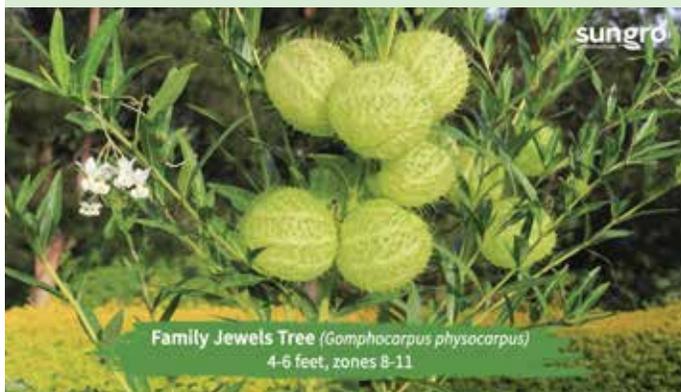


**7:** Common milkweed grows in fields and swamps, but the tall perennial also looks nice in a garden, if you choose a form with pinker flowers. Monarchs love it!



**Common Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*)  
2-3 feet, zones 3-9

**8:** This famously funny Family Jewels Tree will provoke laughs and comments from friends. The white flowers make way for puffy, hairy seed pods with a certain look.



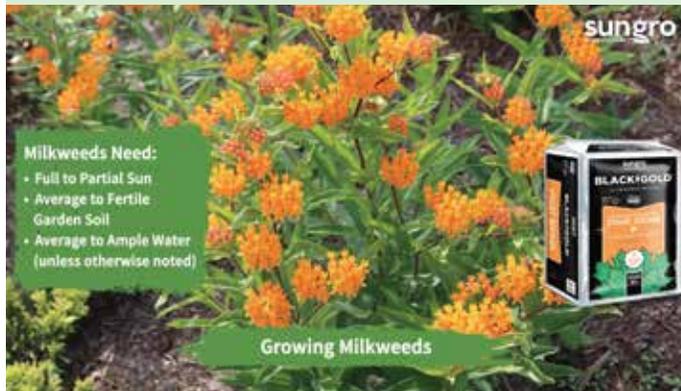
**Family Jewels Tree** (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*)  
4-6 feet, zones 8-11

**9:** Gardeners in western, arid regions should plant the fine-leaved West Coast milkweed, which has many delicate clusters of lavender, pale pink, or silvery white flowers.



**Narrow-Leaved Milkweed** (*Asclepias fascicularis*)  
1-3 feet, zones 7-10

**10:** Milkweeds Need: 1. Full to Partial Sun 2. Average to Fertile Garden Soil 3. Average to Ample Water (unless otherwise noted). When planting milkweed in the garden, amend the soil with Black Gold peat moss, for good growth and establishment.



**Milkweeds Need:**

- Full to Partial Sun
- Average to Fertile Garden Soil
- Average to Ample Water (unless otherwise noted)

**Growing Milkweeds**

**11:** Milkweed seed pods open to release silky, seeds that become airborne. These sometimes sprout in the garden on their own.



**Seeds**  
Let milkweed seeds fly free in your garden!

**12:** When growing milkweed, you are giving the plants to monarch caterpillars to eat and the flowers to pollinators. It is fun to watch the caterpillars pupate and emerge, especially for kids. Keep a lookout for monarch caterpillars and their chrysalises.



**Monarch emerging**  
Keep a lookout for monarch caterpillars and their chrysalis.

**13:** Migrating monarchs need more than milkweeds to fuel their journey, so plant lots of fall butterfly flowers, like this Joe-Pye-weed.



**14:** Enjoy your milkweed and monarchs!



Visit [www.blackgold.bz](http://www.blackgold.bz)



We also offer free horticultural advice through our Ask a Garden Expert support service.

Learn more and discover expert how-to gardening videos, articles, exciting monthly garden giveaways and our \$3.00 rebate.

**sungro**  
HORTICULTURE  
*Our Expertise is Growing®*