

## Common milkweed: *Asclepias syriaca*

### Habitat information

- Common milkweed grows in a range of conditions and is often seen along roadsides. It creates a ball of rosy-pink flowers in summer and attracts monarch butterflies, as well as other butterflies and bees. The name milkweed comes from the plant's milky-white sap, which contains bitter chemicals that protect the plants from hungry predators.
- Milkweeds are the sole food source and larval host for monarch butterflies.



Common milkweed

Credit: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Larry Lamb

### Pollinator information

- **Pollinators:** Butterflies, hummingbirds, birds
- **Larval host:** Grey hairstreak, monarch and queen butterflies



Monarch butterfly



Monarch larva on common milkweed

Credit: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, John Hixson