



BUTTERFLY WEED

LIGHT

Choose full sun for *Asclepias tuberosa*. A sunny border, meadow edge or well-drained native planting suits this perennial. Shaded, crowded sites reduce its performance.

WATER

Water young plants regularly enough to establish deep roots. After establishment, allow the soil to dry between soakings. This species tolerates drought and does not need the constantly moist ground preferred by swamp milkweed.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained sandy, gravelly or ordinary garden soil. Avoid wet clay pockets and standing winter water. Plant at the original depth in a permanent position; the deep root system resents repeated moving.

FEEDING

Feed lightly, if at all. Butterfly weed grows in relatively lean soils. A soil test is more useful than routine rich compost or high-nitrogen fertilizer. Keep the crown open and clear of thick wet mulch.

SEASONAL CARE

Mark the crown and wait patiently in spring; shoots can emerge late. Remove selected seedpods before they split to limit seedlings, or leave some for natural reseeding. Keep healthy foliage after flowering.

HELPFUL TIPS

Check for monarch eggs and caterpillars before any pest action. Avoid insecticides on host foliage. Wear gloves during cleanup and keep plant material away from children and pets. Do not mistake normal late emergence for a dead plant.