

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

I just came across this last week. Butterfly Weed is a native perennial wild flower with clusters of bright orange flowers. It appears naturally in open woods, dry fields, and meadows and its nectar- and pollen-rich flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. It is a cousin of the milkweed, normally attaining a height of 12 to 36 inches. It populates by seeds that it releases from large pods in the fall.

It is difficult to transplant because of its tap root and takes up to three years to really get growing. Therefore it is good to just enjoy and permit it to propagate naturally.



Butterfly Weed
(John Maher)