



Grand Erie Master Gardeners



Brant

Haldimand

Norfolk



Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Butterfly Milkweed, also known as Butterfly Weed and Orange Milkweed, is a member of the “Milkweed” plant family and is native to regions of eastern North America from eastern Ontario south through Florida and west to Arizona and Utah. It has long, pointed and smooth leaves with large flat-topped clusters of bright orange flowers atop short stems. It is one of the larval host plants for Monarchs and an important nectaring plant for many other pollinators.



Photo Credit: Kevin Kavanagh



Plant Type:
Clump forming perennial, does not spread aggressively like Common Milkweed



Light Conditions:
Requires full sun, cannot tolerate more than a few hours of shade daily



Soil and Moisture:
Moist to dry soil, drought tolerant, thrives in sandy & gravelly soils



Size/Height:
0.3 – 0.5 metres
(1 – 1.5 ft tall)



Flowers/Fruit:
Bright orange flower clusters atop stems, blooms in July and August, seeds pods will open and disperse fluffy seeds in October and November.



Wildlife Benefits:
Larval host for the Monarch, attracts other Butterflies, Bees and Hummingbirds.



Cautions:
May be attractive to Oleander aphids (non-native insect). They should not kill the plant but may reduce its vigor when present. Insecticides are not recommended as they could kill Monarch caterpillars that may be present on the plant.