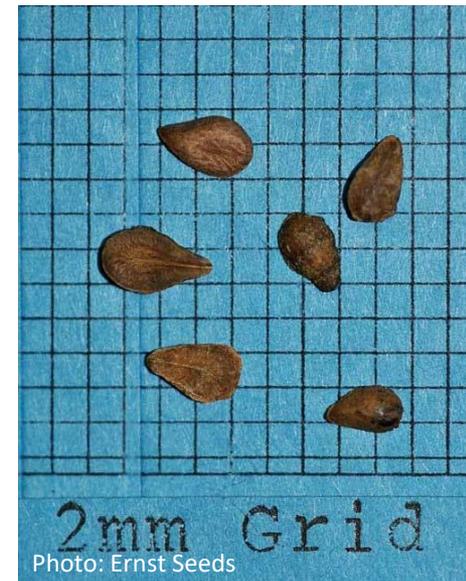


Butterfly Weed – *Asclepias tuberosa*



Butterfly Weed – *Asclepias tuberosa*

Habitat Notes:

Dry woodlands, clearings, fields, pastures, and roadsides.

Species Identification:

- Bright orange to deep red or yellow flowers.
- Height 1 – 3 feet.
- Stem hirsute to hispid; sap not milky.
- Leaves alternate 4-12 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, obovate to oblanceolate, cuneate at the base, margins flat, pilose or hispid, especially beneath.
- Petioles lacking or very short.
- Corolla lobes 5-9 mm, oblong, reflexed
- Horns shorter than hoods, filiform to slender-subulate, nearly erect.
- Follicles (seed pod) 8-15 cm, lance fusiform, hoary or pubescent, erect.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to part sun (2-6 hours a day)
- Clay, loam, sandy soil
- Good drainage, moist, occasionally dry

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Attractive to many insect species, including the large milkweed bug, common milkweed bug, red milkweed beetle, and bees.
- Great for attracting butterflies including Monarchs.

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(30)
 - 30 day cold moist stratification. Keep at temperature range of 33-38 degrees for duration of stratification.
 - Add water to stratification media periodically to ensure seeds do not dry out.

Collection Information:

- Milkweed seed pods. These will begin to split and display seeds when ready. Ideally seeds will be a brown color.
- Avoid collecting after dispersal.
- Collecting whole pods will be more efficient than attempting to empty pods into the bags.
- Remove from pappus before storage.

Pests & Disease:

- Aphids may form clusters towards the top of the plant.
- Crown rot can occur in wet, poorly drained soils.
- May also be susceptible to rust and leaf spot.