



SHOWY MILKWEED

ASCLEPIAS SPECIOSA

IDENTIFICATION - Beautiful and fragrant pink flowers form a crown-like shape which stands on stalks 1.5 to 3 feet tall. It has broad velvety leaves, and when the leaves or stalks are broken they release a milky sap. They can be found in fields and along disturbed areas such as roadways.

BENEFITS - Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweeds, and the leaves are the only food source for the Monarch caterpillars. They also attract many other pollinators including butterflies and bees.

FUN FACTS - The downy fluff attached to milkweed seeds is 6x more buoyant than cork and 5x warmer than wool. Large quantities of milkweed were used to stuff pillows and lifejackets during WWII.



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