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May 31, 2012

**BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. CA-21  
190-VI**

**SUBJECT:** ECS – BIOLOGY- California Pollinator Plants: Native Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.)

**Purpose:** Transmit the Native Milkweeds Technical Note

**Effective Date:** When contents are received.

The Native Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) fact sheet provides the NRCS planner with information on the value these native milkweeds have to butterflies, native bees, and beneficial insects. As the host plant to Monarch Butterflies (*Danuaus plexippus*), planting and managing habitat for native milkweeds can reduce the habitat fragmentation that has resulted in significant declines in monarch butterflies migrating to and from California. Milkweeds also provide high quality nectar to native bees and support beneficial insects that are natural predators of many crop pests. Toxicity to livestock is discussed and reference for additional reading is provided.

Species descriptions of the native Milkweeds include a photograph, distribution map, elevation, flowering time, flower color, maximum height and other general information. Seed sources for most milkweed species are available from these nurseries distributed across the state.

**Filing Instructions:** The attached Technical Note will be filed electronically in the California eFOTG under the folder hierarchy: Section I, Technical Notes, Biology.  
<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx> (Click on California, then any County).

Field offices may also optionally file hard copies in the three-ring binder with other Biology Technical Notes, located in field offices.



TOM HEDT  
State Resource Conservationist

Attachments: Milkweeds Technical Note

Distribution: AE

