

Native milkweed species available commercially: swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*- naturally found in wet soils but grows well in average soils), common milkweed (*A. syriaca*) and butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*) – for moderate to dry areas. Some smaller nurseries may have other southeastern milkweed species (just ask vendor to make sure the seed origin was the southeast U.S). Prices and availability fluctuate annually, check with vendors for the most up-to-date information.

Seed: Ernst seed: *Asclepias incarnata*-\$280/lb, *Asclepias syriaca*- \$120/lb

Roundstone seed: *Asclepias incarnata*-\$225/lb, *Asclepias syriaca*- \$125/lb, *Asclepias tuberosa*- \$399/lb

Live Plants: Carolina Wild Nursery has Swamp Milkweed plants for \$4.25 a pot (3.5 x 5 in. pot)

Baker Environmental also has Swamp Milkweed in 4" -3 1/2"x 3 1/2"Cells, (18 per flat), 1 gal, containers (\$1.75, \$3.75)

Wetland Plants Inc.- Swamp Milkweed: 6.7 cubic inch Large Plugs - 200 - 2,999 \$0.97, 3,000 - 9,999 \$0.86, 10,000 or more \$0.75

Elk Mtn. Nursery- swamp milkweed- \$4.75 per qt. pot

Gardens of the Blue Ridge – has Butterfly milkweed: 3 in pot- \$5.85, qt. pot- \$7.85, gal pot \$10.85, They also have Common Milkweed -3 in pot -\$4.85, qt. pot- \$6.85 AND they have swamp milkweed – 3 in pot \$4.85, qt.- \$6.85, gal - \$9.85

Mellow Marsh Farm has butterfly and swamp milkweed – 2-inch plugs @ \$.75, 4-inch pots @\$2.65

Recommend spacing of 18"- 24"for plugs or up to 36"- 48" for larger plants/pots. Cluster or plant in rows; the plants will grow well either way. Conduct an internet search using these nursery names to find contact information or refer to vendor list.

This list does not intentionally exclude other seed/plant sources. This is a compilation of known sources that carry native milkweed. If other sources of native and local ecotype plant material exist let me know: sudie.thomas@sc.usda.gov

Precautions:

- If using plugs or plants, only use those grown without the use of systemic insecticides (because some insecticides persist in the plant tissues for months after the initial application in the greenhouse, caterpillars eating these plant materials may be harmed). It is important to determine if plants have been treated before purchasing and planting them to benefit monarchs (*ask the vendor to be sure*).
- Do not use non-native milkweeds, such as Tropical (or Mexican) Milkweed, also known as Bloodflower (*Asclepias curassavica*), native to South America. Tropical Milkweed can persist into winter causing some monarchs to breed early instead of migrating south, creating non-migratory groups. One cold-snap can wipe out these groups, taking them out of the gene-pool and creating a population sink. Another problem with Tropical Milkweed is that Monarchs living on these milkweeds outside their natural season are much more susceptible to parasites, which can be passed to the migratory populations, with potentially harmful effects on the entire Monarch population.

Native Milkweeds (Monarch larval host plant) in South Carolina

Common name of Milkweed	Milkweeds native to SOUTH CAROLINA	Region
Clasping	<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>	statewide
Carolina	<i>Asclepias cinerea</i>	south coastal plain
Large-flower	<i>Asclepias connivens</i>	south coastal plain
Poke	<i>Asclepias exaltata</i>	piedmont, mountains
Pinewoods	<i>Asclepias humistrata</i>	coastal plain
Swamp	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	statewide
Few-flower	<i>Asclepias lanceolata</i>	coastal plain
Long-leaf	<i>Asclepias longifolia</i>	coastal plain
Michaux's	<i>Asclepias michauxii</i>	coastal plain
Pinelands	<i>Asclepias obovata</i>	south coastal plain
Savanna	<i>Asclepias pedicellata</i>	outer coastal plain
Aquatic	<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	coastal plain
Four-leaf	<i>Asclepias quadrifolia</i>	piedmont, mountains
Red	<i>Asclepias rubra</i>	coastal plain
Common	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	statewide
Tuba	<i>Asclepias tomentosa</i>	inner coastal plain, lower piedmont
Butterfly	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	statewide
Red-ring	<i>Asclepias variegata</i>	statewide
Whorled	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	statewide
Green comet	<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>	statewide
Honeyvine	<i>Cynanchum laeve</i>	statewide