



Scientific name: *Asclepias speciosa*

Common name(s): Showy Milkweed

Family: Apocynaceae (Dogbane)

Native: CO, Upper Midwest, Great Plains, Rockies, West

Habitat: Prairie, meadow, stream banks, ditches, roadsides

Deeply rooted and therefore drought tolerant once established, Showy Milkweed is long blooming reseeding perennial, great for naturalistic pollinator gardens. Its distinct large leaves make a great foil for more delicate perennials; combine with Big (Andropogon gerardii) and Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), Indian Grass (Sorghastrum nutans), Narrow-Leaf Purple Coneflower (Echinacea angustifolia), Blazing Star (Liatris sp.), and Goldenrod (Solidago sp.). Plant near a sunny downspout or low spot for extra moisture to prolonged bloom. Though a host plant for Monarchs and popular with many pollinators, the Showy milkweed flower structures can entangle the legs of bees, causing their demise. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Plant type: Perennial (may reseed)

Elevation: to 8600'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3

Exposure: Full sun (does not tolerate shade)

Soil: Clay, loam, sand, gravel

Moisture: High, moderate, low, dry (prefers some moisture)

Flower color: Pink shades

Bloom time: Early to mid summer

Mature size (height x width): 2-5' x 12-18"



Propagation: Sow seeds outside in the fall; cover very lightly OR cold stratify 60 days. Seeds germinate best when temperatures are above 80°F day/ 60°F night.

