

Showy Milkweed

Asclepias speciosa



Description: Stout stalk, sparingly branched, 1½-3 ft. tall, with large, oval, blue-green leaves. Blooms in summer with showy, 4-5 in. spherical clusters of fragrant, rose-colored flowers. The banana-shaped fruit is large, rough, and filled with many flat oval seeds, each with a silky plume. Sap is white latex.

Habitat: Grows in sunny, open, dry habitats and in a wide range of soil types.

Landscape Uses: This ornamental is best used in floral landscaping or a prairie meadow to attract butterflies, bees, and insects. It is the host plant for the Monarch butterfly.



Photo Courtesy of Vicky Watkins