



How To Grow Your New Butterfly Milkweed Plant

Your plant will grow to be 1-2' high and wide. It is a perennial, so it will come up every year, and every year it will have more flowers! It is important to be patient with native flowers the first year. Because they have deep roots, the first year they spend most of their energy on root growth, not flowers. The second year is all about the cheerful orange flowers! It blooms all summer, starting in late June.

1. **Plant in full sun.** Choose a spot that is well drained. Butterfly milkweed does not like wet areas.
2. **Dig a hole 6" wide and 8" deep.** Loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole.
3. **Add some compost.** If your soil quality is poor, consider adding some compost and mixing it with the soil that you fill in around your plant's roots. Don't worry if you don't have compost! Butterfly milkweed will grow in most soils if the soil drains well.
4. **Choose your spot with care.** Butterfly milkweed does not transplant well.
5. Plant the plant so that when the hole is filled back in with loosened soil, the top of soil and the roots are just below the level of the surrounding ground, to encourage water to collect around the plant when it rains.
6. **Water thoroughly.** Water your plant thoroughly at the time you plant it and once a week this summer if there isn't rain. If it is very dry when you plant it, you may want to water it every couple of days so it can get over the shock of being transplanted.
7. **Don't crowd the plant.** Plant other plants at least 8" away from your new plant, so it has room to grow.
8. **Keep mulch away.** If you use mulch, always keep mulch at least 2" from the plant stem. Plants are healthier when mulch doesn't touch them.

