



photo: Reveal, James L. NY, 2014, cropped

## Common Milkweed      *Asclepias syriaca*

- 3-6 ft tall, native NJ & northeast US, perennial/winter-dormant
- Fragrant, dusty rose flowers bloom June to August
- Dry to moist soil, full sun to part shade
- Attracts butterflies, food plant for 13 species of caterpillars
- Tolerates deer, clay
- Spreads readily by seed and creeping rhizome, easy to pull out
- Collect brown seeds when pods crack open easily, July – October
- To clean, grasp thread bundle in pod, wipe or pull seeds off
- Store seeds cold and dry to maintain dormancy
- In fall, sow in garden bed outdoors or in pots indoors or outside
- Press seeds firmly into moist soil surface, do not cover with soil
- 4 weeks moist at 40°F, outdoors or in pots, to break dormancy
- Move to 70°F with light, indoors or outside, to germinate in spring