



Muller, Thomas L. Gila National Forest, NM 2007

Butterfly Milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

- 1-3 ft tall, winter dormant perennial, native: NJ, eastern US
- Orange flower clusters bloom June to September
- Prefers dry to average, well-drained soil; full to part sun
- Attracts bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects
- Host Plant for 13 species of caterpillars, including Monarchs
- Tolerates deer, clay, drought
- Collect seeds when pods open easily at the seam
- Grasp seed bundle by the silky threads, and wipe seeds off
- Store seeds cold and dry to maintain dormancy
- Press seeds firmly into moist soil surface in pots or in garden
- Cover very lightly with sand; seeds need light to germinate
- Treat seeds 4 weeks moist at 40°F to break dormancy
- Then move to 70°F and light to germinate