

Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

Name: *Asclepias tuberosa* – can also apply to *A. syriaca*, *A. verticillata*

Common name: butterfly weed, milkweed

Scheduling Information

Available sizes: 72, LP50

Sales Window: late spring through summer

Plug size	72	LP50
Finish size	1 trade gal	1 trade gal
Weeks to finish	8-10 weeks	9-11 weeks
When to plant	Late summer-early fall following year sales	Spring to late spring

Growing on to Finish

Media:	Professional potting media
pH:	5.8-6.2
EC:	1.5-2.5 pour through method
Irrigation:	Water pots thoroughly upon planting the plugs but once they establish, allow the containers to dry down a bit between watering.
Fertilizer:	75-100 N ppm at each watering
Light:	Asclepias needs long days to break dormancy (14+ hrs). Has been found to react favorably to supplemental lighting during the forcing process to promote more uniform growth and blooming (when day lengths are less than 12hrs)
Temperature:	Rooting out: 55F+ nights Growing: 65-70F+ day/ 58-62F nights Holding: 50-60F
Pest & Disease:	Thrips, aphids, whitefly, mites Crown and root rot (Sclerotium), web blight and root rot (Rhizoctonia), leaf spots (Phyllosticta), rust (Puccinia), Cucumber Mosaic virus (CMV)
Vernalization:	Not required but beneficial for uniform flower and habit. 6-9 weeks of temperatures below 40F is best
Pinching:	Plants can be sheared to encourage lateral branching.

Grower Tips:

- Plants prefer high light and a drier growing environment
- Plants are slow to emerge in spring (break dormancy)
- Plants will sporadically bloom in its first year
- If growing temperatures dip below 50F at night, plants can go into a second dormancy
- Plants resent transplanting and will drop leaves if stressed and will also show stress when too rootbound or will show stress if grown too cold in greenhouse or cold frame
- Plant high so crown is above soil line in the container

Disclaimer: Cultural information is provided as a guide only. North Creek Nurseries does not guarantee the exact results, as growth and finish times may vary depending upon your location, climate, cultural practices and other influences. Always check manufacturers' labels for approved rates and usage instructions when applying fertilizer or other chemicals.

Sources: Ball Perennial Manual, Propagation and Production, Walter's Gardens, Ball Redbook 18th ed



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