

Asclepias incarnata L.
Swamp Milkweed

Swamp milkweed is a native plant that is often overlooked as a garden flower. As its common name suggests *A. incarnata* is a wetland plant that can be seen not only in marshes but often in wet ditches. Full sun and wet soil are the ideal for this plant and it is ideal for wet situations, but it will also perform reasonably well in most to well drained soil. The light pink to shocking pink flowers are striking in the garden. The stems are weaker than other members of this genus and staking may be needed in order to keep them upright.

One pest that can be of concern for this plant, is the striking orange milkweed aphid (*Aphis nerii*) which I have observed densely covering the stems late in the summer.



Like butterfly weed swamp milkweed is one of the last plants to poke its head above ground in the spring so keep the faith if it doesn't appear alongside your other perennials.