

# swamp milkweed

## *Asclepias incarnata*

### FEATURES

The swamp milkweed is a perennial herb. Its stems are upright, branched, smooth and may grow to five feet tall. The stems and leaves have a milky sap. The simple leaves are lance-shaped, up to four inches long and up to one inch wide. Pink flowers are borne in clusters. Flowers are hour-glass shaped and up to one-third inch long. Each seed has long, silky hairs on one end. Seeds are contained in pods, which may be five inches long.

### BEHAVIORS

The swamp milkweed grows in swamps, wet ditches and wet meadows. The swamp milkweed flowers from June through September. Its roots provide food for muskrats.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Gentianales  
Family: Apocynaceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE



flowers



milky sap



Pods



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## leaves and stem



### **Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none