

## swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Anthophyta

Class: Dicotyledonae

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### 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.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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