

## What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** 1.9-6.5 feet tall

**Color:** Small green to purple flowers;  
green, gray, or light brown seed pods

**General:** Tall stem covered in leaves  
with a green to purple flower or a  
green, gray, or light brown seed pod  
on the top

**Usually Found:** Fields, prairies,  
forest margins, roadsides, waste  
ground, and floodplains of lakes,  
ponds, and waterways



## Did You Know?

- Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), is also known as broadleaf milkweed.
- Milkweed flowers from late May to early August.
- Milkweed is a vital part of the monarch butterfly's diet and survival. Ingesting the nectar causes the monarch's flesh to taste bitter and the foul taste dissuades predators from consuming the butterflies.

## What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The appearance of flowers
- Seed pods forming
- Seed pods opening and seeds dispersing

## Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this plant is impacted by environmental changes.

## How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

## Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

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