

Mrs. Helen Homeowner
1123 82nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 26789

October 12, 2017

Ms. Donna Swartz, Horticulture Specialist
Greenscape University
615 W. Green Street
Plants Delight, IN 55555

Dear Ms. Swartz:

I have an area in the border of my landscape that I would like to plant an herbaceous perennial that will attract butterflies and will look natural. I already have a mixture of herbaceous perennials in this border but they mostly bloom in the spring or early summer. I would prefer that the plants not exceed a mature height of 2-1/2 feet. I would like to have something that will feed butterflies in late summer or early fall. Whatever it is, it **must** be deer resistant because we have a huge deer population in our area.

What would you recommend I try?

Sincerely,

Helen Homeowner

As the Horticulture Specialist, located in Indiana, you are responsible for urban landscape education. Based on the information provided by Ms. Homeowner, your response needs to include the following:

Recommendation:

- Asclepasis tuberosa - a native of North America - common name, butterfly weed
- USDA hardiness zones 3 to 9
- Mature height - 1 to 2-1/2 feet; mature spread 1 to 2 feet
- Herbaceous perennial
- Perennial Plant of the Year™ for 2017
- Easily grown in average soil, full sun, drought tolerant
- Blooms mid-summer into early fall
- Bright orange to yellow-orange blossoms - sturdy stems - unique pattern to blooms; five petals turn up, five petals turn down. Petals that turn up have 'horns' that curve into the center of the blossom.
- Resistant to insects, diseases and other pests such as deer
- Nectar attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and moths
- Favorite food source for caterpillars of monarch butterflies
- Establish using one-gallon size container plants or sow Fall seed to flower the third year.