

**Manmade wetland** – tubs are easiest, I also have a lower area where the cutleaf coneflowers and swamp milkweed are but it can be difficult to keep moist them in drought times. The Elliott’s aster that I planted there died but I have some in a tub now. I have some other wetland plants that I love- scarlet hibiscus, eryngium and saltmarsh mallow in 9 gallon tubs sunk in the ground. (There are several ways to create a wetland, some people use pond liners to help retain the water.)

Tropical sage grew all around my tubs and it looks like the plants are planted in the ground even though they are in pots sitting in the tubs. I added mosquito dunks (.5 per tub) recently, long term results are unknown. (Janet Bowers 2020)



I was surprised that the **native pink swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)** acted as a nectar plant and a host plant for butterflies. I planted some of my plants in the mini wetland and put others in the tubs. The ones in the tub seem to be happier, I think because they stay consistently wet. **July and August are peak months.**



The monarch caterpillars like to eat the flowers.



Tiger swallowtail on milkweed



Milkweed seeds ready to disperse





*Asclepias incarnata* in 9 gallon tubs sunk in the ground. I planted Browne's savory as a ground cover and tropical sage also popped up. Most milkweeds were in 3 gallon pots. They overwintered and sprouted again in spring 2020. They bloomed and supported caterpillars. I collected pods and grew about 30 seedlings to plant in the ground and pass along to friends.