



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

**Thomas Becker**  
Extension Agent, Florida  
Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN Topic: Native Milkweeds, *Asclepias*

**Question:** Milkweed bugs leave nothing on my scarlet milkweed for monarch caterpillars to eat. Would you control them? Chaz via email

**Answer:** No, the milkweed bug feeding is less of an issue than the type of milkweed you have. Milkweed bugs always feed in small groups and continuously strip plants bare. Recent research has found scarlet milkweed *Asclepias curassavica*, negatively impacts our population of monarchs living and reproducing in South Florida. It would be better to remove the scarlet milkweed and replant using only one of the native milkweed species like butterflyweed, *A. tuberosa*, swamp milkweed *A. incarnata* or Curtis milkweed, *A. curtisii*.

### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>  
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



*Asclepias incarnata*,  
swamp milkweed



*Asclepias tuberosa*, Butterfly-  
weed



*Asclepias curtisii*, Curtis milkweed

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M 7/13/2013.





