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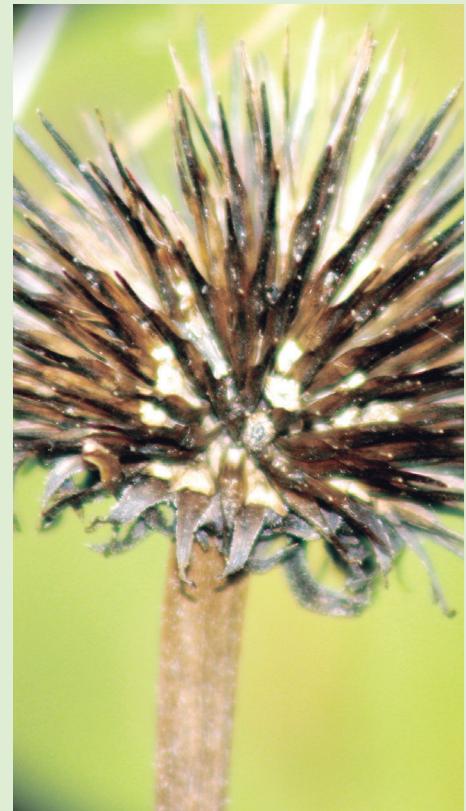
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Amorpha



Purple cornflower

'Milkweed pods may survive the winter'



Yucca

have been found to be highly toxic to livestock, and circumstantial evidence suggests common milkweed may, under some circumstances, also be toxic."

If you are in an area where this plant cannot escape to farmlands, allow one or two to grow for the monarch butterflies and the interesting pods that will sometimes persist through the winter.

Right next to the milkweed is the leftover head of a spent purple coneflower, (*Echinacea* sp.). The prickly-looking head belies the soft beauty of the plant when it is in full flower, but maybe is an indicator of what a tough cookie it really is in both a cultivated garden and the natural lands it finds home. Actually, the word *Echinacea* comes from the Greek word for hedgehog—*chinos*—which does make sense when you see the picture, doesn't it? You really need to let this plant be for the winter as the seeds are an important food source for birds for months—gold finches being at the top of the list of patrons.

The final native, well, at least native to North America, is the seed pod of the yucca plant. Here is another common plant that is attractive and architec-



Milkweed

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