

Planting Milkweed Seeds

Harvesting Seeds:

Pick mature pods. They should open easily when you squeeze the pod gently. Seeds should be brown, not green or white. The best time for this is usually around the end of September or early October.

Dry in an open area with good air circulation.

Separate seeds from coma/floss (the white stuff!)

Store in cool, dry area.

Stratification

Place in between damp (not wet) paper towels in a plastic bag in your refrigerator for 1-2 months.

“Shock” seeds by soaking in warm water for 24 hours before planting.

Start indoors 4-8 weeks before last frost

- Use a seed starter mix, soak soil and drain
- Use deep pots for Common Milkweed, they have a taproot
- Plant ¼” - 1/2” apart
- Plant in warm soil, 70 degrees
- Cover with 1/8” - ¼” soil
- Mist and cover with plastic
- Water from bottom
- Put under grow lights or in south window
- Once they are 3-6” tall harden them off
- Transplant outside after last frost

Plant in full sun in well drained garden soil. Swamp Milkweed likes saturated soil. Water well until established.

The easiest way to plant milkweed seeds is to harvest the seeds in the fall as described above and plant them outdoors, where you want them to grow, in good garden soil with little competition from other plants. *WINTER* is their stratification period! Mark the area where you planted them and watch for them to germinate in the spring. Swamp Milkweed germinates later than Common Milkweed. Be patient. ☺ Common Milkweed will spread with underground rhizomes so don't plant them where you don't want them to spread. Or, pull up the plants on the edge of your growing area to keep them contained.