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Plant Milkweed Seeds
SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES



Did you know monarchs can't survive without milkweed?

Milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars will eat, so it's the only place monarchs lay their eggs. Chemicals and loss of habitat have seriously reduced the amount of milkweed in the Midwest, resulting in fewer monarchs traveling through Illinois every year. This is why planting milkweed near our homes is important.

Milkweed is a perennial plant, and seedlings grow very slowly during the first couple years. Most milkweed species evolved in open areas where they were exposed to full sunlight, and they will do best if they are planted in the sunniest areas of your gardens.

When to Plant

Milkweed seeds can be sown outdoors after the danger of frost has passed. Keep in mind that seeds have a range of soil temperatures at which they will germinate. Also, remember that under sunny conditions the soil temperatures can be much higher in the daytime than the ambient air temperatures you experience. Plant the seeds early since those planted late in the season may not germinate because of high temperatures. In addition, new seedlings from late plantings can "dry off" before they are even noticed. Germination outdoors depends on soil moisture and temperature and could take several weeks if conditions are not ideal. For complete growing instructions, visit <https://monarchwatch.org/milkweed>

