

Fall Project to Help Monarchs

National Garden Clubs

Marian M. McNabb

Fall is the time to collect Milkweed seed for spring planting.

Monarch Watch out of the University of Kansas has been asking us to collect Milkweed seed, Native to our area, and send it to them so they can start plugs for spring planting. Monarch Watch is an excellent source for plugs and seeds in the spring for our Monarch Waystations.

To collect the seeds, you need to find dry seed pods on Milkweed plants and make sure the seeds are brown in color. You can separate the seeds from the pods, or you can send the whole pod. If sending the whole pod be sure to **tape them shut** so the seeds don't come out during transporting them from you to Monarch Watch.

If you separate them yourself, you can use the pods in dried arrangements, if separating them yourself you accomplish two things, seeds for Monarchs and pods for dried arrangements.

Do not mix different species of Milkweed, make sure each variety is in a separate envelope or package,

and labeled as to the species. Make sure if sending pods that they are dry and insect free on the outside.

Send at least one ounce of seed. Two to four onion bags of pods will yield approximately 1 pound of seed.

When collecting seeds, package them in an envelope, paper, or onion bag so if they're not completely dry, they won't mold as they could in plastic.

Mark them - where they came from - county, state, and type of Milkweed.

Example:

Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*, your name, name of your club if it's a club project, address and email, along with date collected. If the site has a large amount of Milkweed or it's a small area, add this information.

Send to:

Monarch Watch
University of Kansas
2021 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, Kansas, 66047

