

Establishment of pollinator plantings can be difficult and requires the **Three Ps**.

Planning: It is very important to plan ahead. Pollinator plantings require lots of thought on species and site selection, site preparation, planting, and maintenance.

Patience: Native plants are best for pollinator plantings, and most natives are not quick to establish and flower. It is important to be patient while native plants slowly emerge and set their deep roots to pull moisture for the toughest growing conditions.

Persistence: Persistence will pay off. Weed control is one of the most challenging and important parts of establishing a successful pollinator planting. Be persistent with weed control, monitoring, and care of your pollinator planting.

Project Size: Pollinator plantings can range in size from a couple hundred square feet to a couple hundred acres. It is obvious that smaller projects will likely receive more care per unit of area, but the establishment steps are basically the same. Smaller projects (typically < 1 acre) are more conducive to more intense establishment methods, such as solarization, planting plugs, hand-pulling weeds, etc.

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Or

<http://www.ophi.info/>

For more information about the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative:
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Monarch caterpillar

Planting milkweed for Monarchs is vital! Milkweed is the sole host plant for Monarch butterflies. This particular plant is lacking on the landscape and has had a direct effect on Monarch populations.



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)



Monarch caterpillar foraging on *C. milkweed* (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Please join us in our effort to replenish this essential plant in Ohio by collecting common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) pods in your area.



Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District

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Pollinator Planting; source: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Pollinator Species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the monarch butterfly has drastically declined here in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In response to this decline the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat to pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. OPHI formed after the 2014 petition to list the monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find opportunities and other partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat.

Collecting Seed Pods

- To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant it is best to pick them when they are dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Please mark on the sack: the county in which the milkweed came from, date/time and if other than common milkweed; which species of milkweed was collected.
- Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area.
- Harvesting pods from milkweed plants does not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.
- All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch Butterfly throughout Ohio.

When collecting Milkweed pods wear appropriate clothing for the outdoors. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Questions or for more information on pollinators contact OPHI or the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 740-992-4282.

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts is organizing a **Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection** this year starting **September 1st** and ending **October 30th**. Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in Ohio and Ohio is a priority area for Monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. During September- October everyone is encouraged to collect Common Milkweed Pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection station. The majority of Ohio Counties have a Milkweed Pod Collection Station most of them being located at the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.



Milkweed seed pods. Collect when dry, gray, or brown between September 1st and October 30th.