

MILKWEED CORRIDOR PROJECT

Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) Seedlings

Thank you for participating in creating a corridor of Milkweed for our Monarchs by accepting these Showy Milkweed plant plugs! Though not large, these plugs have well-developed root systems that will help the plants get established and grow quickly. This pdf has information about this milkweed and these seedlings and how to plant them and care for them in their first year. Page 2 has planting instructions.

Local native plants such as Showy Milkweed are suited to the soil and climate of our area. They do much better without fertilizer because they are so adapted to local soil and fertilizer upsets the microbial balance among their roots. Also, after this first summer, they will become established and rarely would they need water. Oregon has 5 species of milkweed. Choosing a location for each of these species can vary greatly.

Here are requirements for receiving a donation of 12 Showy Milkweed.

If you are using an existing garden with flowering plants, you already meet some of these requirements. Just replace non-natives in your garden with the milkweed, all in one clump and add in other native flowers where possible, using your judgment. The native flowers feed butterflies best as they evolved together.

Select this type of planting location for your Showy Milkweed: Sunny (6 or more hours/day in summer), away from drift of *any pesticide*, roots need well-drained soil, not wet but not too well drained (like on a slope). Plant all the plants together in a clump and use some sort of marker to indicate their location in the cold seasons, when they are all underground.

These milkweed are a perennial plant. They may disappear beneath the ground with the first cold weather and you won't see them again until about April when the soil warms up. They spread by rhizome so choose your location to not interfere with other nearby plants or your other uses of your garden space. Seed can be collected from their large pods in their second year.

If you have questions, please contact me, Darcy Grahek at info@stillwaternativesnursery.com.

Together I hope we can all make the difference that the Monarchs need.



Showy seedling, 3 inches tall



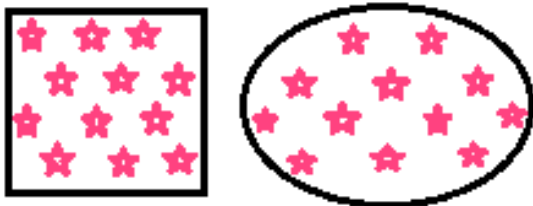
PLANTING

1. Water plants well and allow to dry about 8 or so hours so that the soil will remain packed around their roots.
2. Plant milkweed in a group with individual plants approximately 10- 15" apart. You'll be creating a patch of milkweeds that Monarch butterflies can easily find. Sometimes they spot milkweed from 1,000 feet up in the air.
3. Dig a hole slightly wider but no deeper than your landscape plug. If soil is extremely sandy, add about a quart of compost to the hole and mix until about 50/50.
4. Your plug is in a Bandpot, (would love to have them returned) and to remove the plant, hold the container upside-down. Protecting the plant with you hand, tap the edge of the Bandpot firmly on a hard surface. Repeat until plant slides out.. Pulling on the crown of the plant can break roots at the stem.
5. Carefully extract your plug from its container, leaving roots formed into their cube. They are NOT root-bound so don't break it up. If the soil crumbles away, leaving you holding a bare-rooted plant then just carefully plant it as you would otherwise *but then shade it* with an overturned large pot or something for about 36 hours.
6. Set the plant into the hole.
7. Fill in the hole around the plant with the soil/amendment that was removed from the hole.
8. Immediately water thoroughly with a mister or watering can. Weekly watering for a few weeks and then every 2 weeks until the plant is established (maybe by July?). If the weather is sunny and hot, more frequent watering may be necessary.
9. Mulching shallowly around the plant, such as with shredded leaves, can help retain moisture. No fertilizer mulch.

After this first year, most plants should be well-established and able to succeed on their own. Keep an eye out for weeds. In their first year, your perennial plants will be establishing their root systems and they won't grow to cover much ground, so weeds will seize the opportunity.

These plants may not flower the first year but they may still be used by Monarchs for egg-laying.

For ideas of other native flowers to plant visit a Monarch website or our Stillwater Natives Nursery website for ideas. www.stillwaternativesnursery.com



Plant in any pattern or shape and if you want, make a border around your patch to mark it in the off season. Plant roughly 12 inches apart. Monarchs will find a patch this size!