

How to plant Common Milkweed seed (*Asclepias syriaca*).

The most important factor is knowing that milkweed seeds need at least 4-6 weeks cold temperatures before the seedcoat will break down enough for the small plant inside to come out. This cold stratification can be done naturally or artificially. Make sure to place seeds in full sun, where there is no plant competition and where it will be okay for it to multiply.

Natural Stratification

1. Place seeds on and press into moist soil late November through the end of January. Do not put them on frozen ground as they can blow away.
2. Frost seed by placing seeds on 1-2" of snow through February. The melting snow will take the seed into the ground as it melts and frost action will plant it at the proper depth.

Artificial Stratification

1. Spread seeds out onto and between moist paper towels, then place in a Ziploc bag. Write the date on the bag. Place in refrigerator for at least 6 weeks. Remove from refrigerator and plant directly outside after last frost date or in peat pots indoors. Keep seeds moist. When plant is 4-6" tall, transplant outside. Make sure peat pot is completely covered with soil. Water plants the first few weeks as needed.
2. Place seeds outside in a winter planted milk jug to germinate. See the following site for directions. <https://www.finchandfolly.com/blog/2022/3/6/how-to-use-milk-jugs-to-sow-seeds-in-the-winter>
3. Make seed bombs with your kids, girl or boy scouts and place them where you want plants to grow. Pre-stratify seeds or place outdoors in the winter. Here are two sites with one using powdered clay and the other using
 - a. Powdered Clay: <https://www.saveourmonarchs.org/blog/milkweed-seed-balls-101?srltid=AfmBOopRnywKQqVhckWdky5TpJgFeb4uuMuscE2ygdm5jHmBmRM2hP8k>
 - b. Air dried: <https://northerngardener.org/spring-seed-bombs/>Fancy air dried: <https://woodlarkblog.com/diy-wildflower-seed-bombs/>