

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

Growing Native Milkweed Seeds

Growing native milkweed is a great alternative to tropical milkweed. Occasionally we can find native milkweed plants but the available supply is very, very limited. So Buchanan's carries seeds for at least four different native milkweed species.

- ❖ GROWING FROM SEED -- These seeds are relatively difficult to get started and they grow slowly. Despite the difficulty, the benefits of growing native are worth the effort for many of us. Introducing diversity in the milkweed population in the Houston area is sure to help Monarchs in their fight for survival.
- ❖ STRATIFY THE SEED* -- Stratification is the process of subjecting seeds to both cold and moist conditions. To accomplish this, you merely place the seeds in a sealed plastic bag with lightly moistened vermiculite or sand and refrigerate it.
 - Put about a cup of vermiculite in each zip-able sandwich bag and moisten it lightly. Mix in one packet of seeds per bag. Staple the empty seed packet to the bag as a label.
 - Put the bag in the refrigerator for 30–60 days.
 - Once the seeds have been stratified and the weather has warmed, you can plant them in the ground according to the packet directions. Plant the vermiculite along with the seeds. It will help you distribute the seeds more evenly. Remember that milkweed plants form taproots so they don't like being moved or repotted.
- ❖ CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTING SITE -- Milkweed needs sun. It dislikes rich flowerbed soils or soils that don't drain well.

*Thank you for feeding Monarch Butterfly
caterpillars their most important food: Native Milkweed!*

***If you sow your milkweed seed in the ground in October or November, there's a good chance Mother Nature will do your stratification for you. But, for the best germination rate, follow the directions above.**