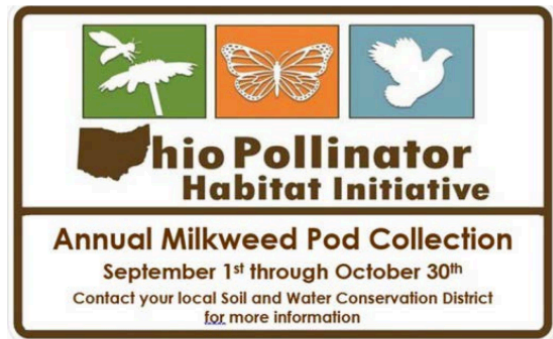


CLARK SWCD TO HOST MILKWEED SEED POD COLLECTION STATION



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 and October everyone is encouraged to collect 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. You can find the location of your local SWCD office: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/soil-and-water-conservation/find-a-local-swcd>

Collecting Seed Pods

- To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant it is best to pick them when the seed inside is brown. Do not collect pods when seeds are white or cream colored. If the center seam of the pod pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Greenish-yellow or yellowish-brown pods can have mature seeds in them so the best advice is to wait until they turn yellowish brown and then start checking the inside of the pods. If the seeds are dark brown (not milky brown) then the pod is ready for harvesting.
- 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 your local SWCD office or OPHI at (614) 620-9830 or go visit <https://www.ohiopollinator.org/>

