



Trimble Tots Collection

HOW TO PLANT MILKWEED SEEDS

STARTING INDOORS

1. Early in the spring, fill some small peat pots, egg cartons, or milk cartons with potting soil.
2. Plant seeds in containers; then, place them in the sunniest window of your home.
3. Keep the soil moist. In a week or two, your seeds will sprout, or germinate.

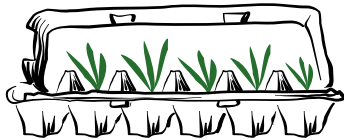


Illustration © George Ulrich

4. Once the ground begins to warm up, transplant the seedlings to your growing site.

GROWING SITE (GOING OUTDOORS)

1. In the spring, prepare the soil in your chosen garden spot by breaking up the clods of dirt.
2. Drag two fingers pressed together through the soil - about one inch deep - in a row or circle.
3. Water the rows, drop in the seeds (they are tiny, but try to spread them out), and cover them with a sprinkling of loose soil. Pat soil firmly.
4. Keep seeds well watered but not soaked.
5. Once the seedlings poke through the soil, thin them by pulling some up. They should be ten to twelve inches apart to grow well.



Illustration © George Ulrich

GARDENING TIPS:

Milkweed seeds have tough outer skins that sometimes make it difficult for the little plant inside to get started. If your seeds don't sprout, ask a grown-up to carefully cut the smooth, straight edge off each seed. This gives the plant an opening to grow through. By the way, in warm areas, you may need to refrigerate your seeds for several months before planting them in the fall or spring. Milkweed seeds available at www.butterflyencounters.com.

Instructions and tips courtesy of Monarch Magic by Lynn M. Rosenblatt