

MERCER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MILKWEED POD COLLECTION

MILKWEED IS THE ONLY HOST PLANT FOR THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY FOR EGG LAYING AND CATERPILLAR REARING. IT ALSO SERVES AS A FOOD SOURCE FOR MONARCHS AS WELL AS MANY OTHER POLLINATOR SPECIES. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MILKWEED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE 80% DECLINE OF THE EASTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATION OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

- *Collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown.*
- *If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they are ready to harvest.*
- *It is best to store the pods in a paper bag so they don't collect moisture.*

If you have any questions you can call our office at (419) 586-3289 Ext. 3. Pods can be dropped off in the front foyer of the Central Service Building at 220 W. Livingston Street, Celina, Ohio.

Collection will start September 1st and end October 30th.

NOT READY



THE ABOVE PICTURES YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THESE PODS ARE STILL GREEN AND THE PODS HAVE NOT OPENED INDICATING THEY ARE NOT READY TO BE COLLECTED.

READY



THE ABOVE PICTURES ARE EXAMPLES OF MILKWEED PODS THAT ARE READY TO BE COLLECTED. YOU WILL NOTICE THE DULL BROWN COLOR AND THE WHITE OF THE SEEDS COMING OUT OF THE POD.