



# A SHORT GUIDE to common milkweed seedlings

*Asclepias syriaca*



Interested in growing common milkweed at home from seeds? Follow these detailed recommendations from our horticulturists!

## PROCEDURE FOR MILKWEED SEEDLINGS

Place the seeds in trays or pots and cover them with a fine sandy soil (2 to 3 times the thickness of the seed, 0.5 to 1 centimeter). Keep moist, but not soaked, until germination.

## OPTIMAL CONDITIONS...

- › Use stratified seeds.
- › Milkweed grows best in light (sandy), well-drained soils.
- › Plant in a sunny spot (at least 6 hours of sun per day).
- › Space the seedlings 20 to 30 centimeters apart, and keep 75 centimeters between rows.

## STRATIFIED SEEDS OR NOT?

**Both seeds are good.** But stratified seeds have a better germination rate. Stratification is a cold treatment that removes seeds from a state of dormancy. If you've bought unstratified seeds, it's possible to stimulate winter cold by stratifying the seeds at home. In a small bag (Ziploc type, or a repurposed bag of milk), mix equal parts seeds and wet sand, and keep them in the refrigerator for at least 30 days. After that treatment, your seeds are ready to be planted..

## WHERE AND WHEN TO PLANT

	OUTDOOR SEEDLINGS	INDOOR SEEDLINGS
STRATIFIED SEEDS	In the spring (mid-June to late June), sow in the desired spot.	Sow at least 8 weeks before the last frost (late May to early June). Transplant the seedlings to the desired spot outdoors.
UNSTRATIFIED SEEDS	In the fall (in September or October, before the first frost), sow in the desired spot.	Sow, and store your damp trays or pots in the refrigerator for 30 days. Remove from the cold, allow the seedlings to germinate and grow, then transplant them to the desired spot outdoors.

## → PLEASE NOTE...

### IT'S PROLIFEROUS, THE COMMON MILKWEED!

Once it's well installed, milkweed can become overwhelming in small gardens. Set aside a space for it where it can grow without harming other plants. As the need arises, remove the fruit before it opens and place a barrier in the soil to limit spread by rhizomes.

