

# Germinating Milkweed Seeds

## 1. Select the Perfect Spot

Milkweed thrives in full sun, so choose a spot that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight daily. Make sure the area has well-drained soil.

## 2. Prepare the Soil

- Clear the Area: Remove weeds, grass, and debris.
- Loosen the Soil: Use a rake or hoe to break up compacted soil, aiming for a depth of about 1-2 inches.

## 3. Plant the Seeds

- Sprinkle the Seeds: Scatter the milkweed seeds evenly over the prepared area.
- Cover Lightly: Gently press the seeds into the soil or cover with a thin layer of soil, no more than 1/4 inch deep.
- Water Gently: Give the area a gentle watering, being careful not to wash the seeds away.

## 4. Care for Your Milkweed

- Watering: Keep the soil moist but not soggy until the seedlings are established.
- Weeding: Keep the area free of competing weeds, especially while the milkweed is young.

## 5. Enjoy the Growth

Watch as your milkweed grows and blooms, attracting butterflies and other pollinators. Milkweed is a perennial, so it will return year after year.

## 6. Consider Planting in Stages

To ensure a continuous supply of milkweed, consider planting in stages, a few weeks apart, for staggered growth. Consider overseeding by casting Milkweed seeds regularly in the same area to help establish a permanent population.

Tips for Success:

- No Need for Fertilizer: Milkweed generally doesn't require fertilization.
- Avoid Pesticides: Pesticides can harm the very pollinators you're trying to attract.
- Be Patient: Milkweed may take a little time to germinate (two weeks) and grow (two months), but the wait is worth it!