



## Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

### Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>



105 Main St - Building B Suite 301 - Painesville, OH 44077  
440-350-2730 [www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd)

## PLANTING MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS IS VITAL!

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (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 31st.**

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 - October, everyone is encouraged to collect **Common Milkweed** pods from established plants and drop them off at a 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 (SWCD) office like Lake Soil & Water Conservation District.



# COLLECTING SEED PODS



Please join Lake SWCD in our effort to replenish this essential plant in Ohio by collecting Common Milkweed pods in your area.

Drop them off during office hours  
8:00am - 4:30pm.

A drop off bin will be located at:  
Lake County Administration Lobby  
105 Main St  
Painesville, OH 44077

Phone: 440/350-2730  
Email: ngertz-  
young@lakecountyohio.gov  
[www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd)

- To collect the seed pods from a Common Milkweed plant it is best to pick them when they are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Please mark on the sack: the county in which the milkweed came from and the date/time.
- 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 the 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 monarch butterflies throughout Ohio.