



Annual Milkweed Pod Collection 9/19/22 - 11/15/22



It's that time again!

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is calling on Ohioans for the 7th year of Milkweed pod collections! This project started in 2015 as a 7-county pilot and the last few years hundreds of Ohioans worked together to collect the seeds. Since the first year, the volunteers have collected approximately 5000 gallons of common milkweed seed pods, totaling over 22 million seeds! 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 U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard to change this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts in 2022 even better by following these simple tips!

- Make sure that before you collect seed, you become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane.
- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS!**
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, the seeds can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags because plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.

The collection starts on September 19th and ends on November 15th. The collection site for Summit County is at the Ohio State University Extension Office at 440 Vernon Odom Blvd.,



Akron, Ohio, 44307 and we are grateful for their willingness to host the bin. If you have any questions about the seedpod collection in Summit County, please call Summit Soil and Water Conservation District at 330-926-2452 or write sbarbic@summitoh.net. If you have questions regarding the milkweed collection program statewide, please contact Marci Lininger at Marci.Lininger@dot.ohio.gov. For more information on Milkweeds refer to this video! <http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/>. We thank you for your help!