

Seed Steward Sign Up Card

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Social Media: _____
(Facebook, Instagram, Twitter address)



Soil Conditions

What are the soil conditions in your garden?

_____ Wet _____ Dry

Sun Conditions

Is your garden in full sun, part sun, or shade?

_____ Full Sun _____ Part Sun _____ Shade

Which species will thrive in your garden?

_____ Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

_____ Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Please complete & send form to
Environmental Concern Inc.
201 Boundary Lane, P.O. Box P
St. Michaels, MD 21663
410-745-9620

Or scan and email to monarchs@wetland.org

Seed Stewards for Monarchs® Goals

- ◇ Increase habitat for the “Near Threatened” Monarch butterfly.
- ◇ Increase *Seed Steward* volunteers in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- ◇ Offer education courses and workshops for *Seed Stewards*.
- ◇ Increase seed inventory, collecting from *Seed Stewards*, on EC’s campus and at EC’s project sites.
- ◇ *Seed Stewards* will share seeds harvested from their milkweed plants.
- ◇ EC’s nursery will share milkweed plants with the *Seed Stewards*.



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Seed Stewards for Monarchs®

*Restoring Monarch habitat...
one seed at a time.*



butterfly milkweed
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Environmental
Concern



Seed Stewards for Monarchs[®]

Environmental Concern (EC) introduced the first Mid-Atlantic Monarch Initiative[®] (MAMI) program, *Seed Steward for Monarchs[®]*, to the public in May, 2018. The goal of the program is to increase milkweed seed inventory in order to grow more milkweed. *Seed Steward* volunteers receive free swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) or butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) plants to start a Monarch butterfly habitat. *Seed Stewards* also receive a welcome bag filled with milkweed tools, tips, and tags. *Stewards* collaborate with each other and with EC by sharing helpful hints by email, social media, and in person. As the milkweed pods mature, and the seeds are ready to collect, *Seed Steward* volunteers exchange their seeds for more milkweed plants grown in EC's nursery.



Seed Collection



When the pods on your milkweed plants are ready to be collected, they will turn a brownish/red color and you will see the pods starting to split open. The seeds pictured here are healthy and viable.



After you pick the pod from the stem, and the seeds dry out, they will be attached to a fine white "fluff". If fluff is already starting to fly out of the pod, you can put a paper bag over it before you pick it off the stem.



When you have finished separating the seeds they should look like the seeds in this container. Be sure to store them in a paper bag, or a container that allows air to circulate. Moisture will spoil the seeds.

Mission

Seed Stewards for Monarchs[®] (SSM), a Mid-Atlantic Monarch Initiative Program, actively engages with the Mid-Atlantic community to encourage the planting of swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) (see picture below) and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). The SSM community is committed to harvesting milkweed seed pods in order to increase swamp and butterfly milkweed plants and seed.



Did you know...?

 Monarch butterflies are not able to fly if their body temperature is less than 86 degrees. They will sit in the sun or "shiver" their wings to warm up.

 The orange of a monarch butterfly's wings is a warning color, identifying itself to predators that the butterfly will taste bad or may be toxic.

 Monarchs can travel between 50 - 100 miles a day. It can take up to two months to complete their journey to winter habitats.