



## SEED OF THE WEEK:

# MILKWEED



You can easily grow milkweed plants to attract the Monarch and other flying creatures to your garden. Milk weed is the only food of the monarch butterfly caterpillar.

If the plant is too weedy for your taste, grow milkweed plants in a hidden but sunny corner or at the back of a border. The milkweed plant is may reach 2 to 6 feet. Leaves of mature plants grow from a thick stalk and are large and green, young plants have pointed green leaves. A milky substance leaks from broken leaves. This is mildly toxic, don't get this latex in your eyes, and it may cause a rash in sensitive people. Wash your skin with soap and water.

Stems become hollow and hairy as the plant matures, and can be used for twine or coarse fabric. The milkweed flower is pinkish and blooms mid-summer. The seed pods are large, filled with white floss which acts as a parachute to spread the seeds.

**The seeds must be tricked into germinating. Place in the fridge in a damp paper towel or wet soil, sealed in a plastic bag for 2-3 weeks, remove from fridge and plant indoors and grow as other early start plants.**

