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October 1, 2018

Dear Soil and Water Friend,

Today kicks off our Milkweed Seed Pod Collection for the year! Once again, we're teaming up with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative to collect Common Milkweed seed pods in an effort to help foster habitats for monarch butterflies. Deposit your milkweed seed pods in the yellow and green container located outside our office door from October 1 to November 8.

Here are a few things to remember when collecting Milkweed seed pods:

- \* Make sure before you collect the pods, that you become familiar with [Common Milkweed](#) to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- \* It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown; not when they are green.
- \* If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- \* Don't collect pods that are already open, as they might be infested with insects.
- \* Store the pods in paper bags; 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 our office.
- \* Only collect from your property or property you have been given permission to go on; do not trespass.

During the winter, the seeds will be removed from the pods and returned to our office in the spring to be distributed for planting. We gave away over 100 milkweed seed packets with planting instructions this year.

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 and many other pollinator species.

If you have any questions, contact [Theresa](#).

Thank you for your help.

Your friends in conservation,

*John, Matt and Theresa*



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including identifying historical photos, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Monitor, Office Assistant or an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here.](#)



Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.

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