

## Starting milkweed seeds from March to mid June and Fall- Winter sowing for the monarch butterfly.

This post is dedicated to those who would like to have small milkweed plants from seeds starting indoor by early spring and continuing outdoor sowing until mid June.

You wont need any growing light, fans, heating pads, humidity, etc... ( Unless you have it already )

This applies especially for Windsor and Essex County residents, we always use this method to get extra plants with an excellent success rate during March and April

when outside it's still too cold. There are many ways to do this and here's the method we use:

- 1) Pick a south window that gets lot of sunlight and place the cold stratified seeds in any pot, paper cups, etc.. with moist potting soil. (1-2 seeds in each pot)  
For faster germination we put the seeds into a zip lock bag in the fridge with some wet sand about two weeks before, and sometimes we use the dome cover until they germinate.



- 2) After germination, usually with 2 sets of leaves we move them into a plastic enclosure with a zipper outdoor, slowly in the sun for a few hours every day.  
We close the zipper for night time and if it's too cold we wheel it in the garage or under our covered patio. (See picture below.)





- 3) Whenever the little plants are ready to be handled we move them into a 4" pots and we let them grow until we want to either transplant them anywhere else or just keep them in the same pot or into a bigger one until the following spring. If you decide to keep them in pots during the winter you need to store them somewhere covered in a shed or patio. If they're left outdoor exposed to the elements they may not make it through our winter do to the freezing – thaw cycle. ( We've lost many in our first year for not knowing this. ) The poor drainage during the winter months will also kill the roots if left exposed to the elements.



This is the best way we found to grow milkweed plants from seeds indoor in early spring without the fancy growing lights, humidity room, fan, heating mats, etc...

We found it at amazon for \$ 35.00, all I did is put plywood on the bottom with some caster wheels for easy rolling it around.

Many others are using these methods with great success, the idea is very simple: let the seeds germinate indoor in a warm place and then let mother nature grow them outdoor accordingly as they would in the fields on their own.

This link below will show you more:

<https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/starting-seeds-indoors-tropical-milkweed/>

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As for May until mid June you can use these methods outdoor when the weather warms up, 1-2 seeds in any small pot will give you the same results by the fall and by next spring you will have a 2 years old plant ready to bloom and to have bigger leaves.

If the weather is too hot ( over 30 C – 85 F ) keep the seeds in the shade to germinate and give them very little time daily in the sun until they are 5-6 inches high.

Use the same strategy as above to overwinter them in the fall and you will have beautiful little plants coming up by next spring.



To really increase your milkweed plants every spring you should also consider the Fall- Winter sowing which is probably the easiest and effortless way to have hundreds of little plants at no cost.

The whole concept on how we do it every year is listed [HERE](#)

We hope this will give you some ideas on how to have plenty milkweed plants in the future for when the monarch butterflies will visit your garden. We've been using them for awhile and they work well with the Common Milkweed – Swamp Milkweed – Butterfly Weed species.

Whenever you may still need extra milkweed plants we recommend our Windsor and Essex County milkweed growers and retailers listed [HERE](#)

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