



PIKE SWCD TO HOST MILKWEED SEED POD COLLECTION STATION

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water

Conservation Districts is organizing a **Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection starting September 1st and ending October 31st.**

Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in Ohio and Ohio is a priority area for Monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring.

During September and October everyone is encouraged to collect milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection stations. The majority of Ohio Counties have a Milkweed Pod Collection Station most of them being the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Pike County's pod collection station is located at the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 11752 State Route 104, Waverly, Ohio.

A portion of the seeds collected are returned to Pike SWCD to distribute for free.

For further information contact the Pike SWCD office at 740-947-5353, ext. 3145 or email darlene.brewster@oh.nacdnet.net.



Seed pods from common milkweed should be Collected **ONLY WHEN THE PODS ARE DRY & BROWN-GREY** in color.

If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.

The seeds in green pods will not be viable and won't be able to be used.

It is best to collect pods into paper bags. Avoid plastic bags because they can allow mold to develop.

It is recommended to leave at least 50 percent of the seed crop at a given site to allow for natural recruitment and regeneration of the native population the next growing season.

