

# How to grow *Asclepias syriaca*, Common Milkweed

## Why we are growing this:

This is the challenge plant we are growing for the Zone II flower show, hosted by the New Canaan Garden Club, on June 13-14, 2018. Every Zone II club must grow these and must enter one *Asclepias* plant into the flower show. When June comes around, we will send around photos of our plants, decide which one looks best and then enter that one into the show.

## Why it's a great plant:

Lucky for us, we will all have extra plants, and milkweed is a wonderful addition to any garden since it is the lifeblood of the Monarch butterfly: it supplies its caterpillars with shelter and food (it is literally the only thing butterflies lay their eggs on and the only thing the caterpillars eat.)

## How to grow:

- Put the seeds in a baggie with damp soil or peat moss, seal it and put in the refrigerator for 30 days. This cold treatment is called "stratification" and it breaks the seed dormancy so it can germinate. Label it with the date! Put the date on your calendar! Check a few times to make sure the mixture is still slightly damp.
- After 30 days, pot it up in damp (not wet) soil. If you have grow lights, use them!
- If you have these, use them! <https://www.gardeners.com/buy/growease-seed-starting-kit/8589987RS.html#start=2>
- If you don't have a little starter kit like this, put a baggie around each little pot, to create a greenhouse effect.
- To be entered into the show, the milkweed plant needs to be in a 6" terra cotta pot with a saucer. Please buy a new one so it looks perfect!

Please email with any questions, although in full disclosure, I admit I have never grown these before. But I can google like nobody's business.

xo,  
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