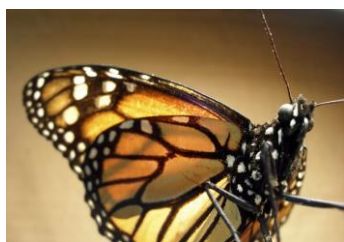




What you will need:

- A milkweed plant root or seeds
- Refrigerator access
- Soil
- Water
- A planting pot
- Safety goggles
- Safety gloves
- Adult supervision



Milkweed Habitat

Overview and Objective

We will learn how to create a milkweed habitat to attract monarch butterflies as they pass through the Carolinas on their annual migration.

Common milkweed is an important plant because so many species of insects, like monarch butterflies, depend on it. In fact, monarchs cannot survive without milkweed as their caterpillars only eat milkweed plants. Monarch butterflies also need milkweed to lay their eggs.

Procedure:

1. If you have access to an established milkweed plant, start with a root. However, if you don't have a plant readily available, start with milkweed seeds.
2. Prepare for sowing by slightly burying a few seeds in a planting pot filled with moist soil and placing it in the refrigerator for 30 to 60 days.
3. Once your seeds have sprouted, young plants should be placed in a hole larger than the root ball and covered with soil up to the level of the original pot.
4. If planting more than one milkweed plant at a time, give them ample room to encourage the plants to spread.
5. During the first year, be sure not to spray herbicides on the plant(s), but water often as it is critical to success.

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