

Hello Pollinator Partners!

It is another year of milkweed pod collection. While many things have changed in our day to day lives, one thing has not changed. Monarchs still need milkweed. Our efforts over the last few years is paying off and we are seeing an uptick in milkweed across the Ohio landscape. That is in no small part to your efforts. THANK YOU! We need to ensure this uptick is maintained by continuing our efforts to collect and disperse milkweed across the State not only for nectar and habitat building but also for education and outreach. While we are living in many instances a virtual world, we can still share milkweed with folks educating them on the importance of pollinators and pollination in Ohio.

We are calling for your assistance with processing pods this year and potentially years to come. It only takes a few people to process pods and it can be made into a fun family activity or group activity completed under social distancing (six feet or more apart). We are looking for all the help we can get. This is a crucial year for monarchs with the added pressure of COVID-19 decreasing the amount of social activity we are seeing throughout the State which could affect the number of pods we collect.

We are recommending the following measure to ensure the health and safety of our partners:

1. Use disposable gloves when processing pods
2. Where a face mask when processing pods
3. Use paper bags or envelopes to store processed seed
4. Use hand sanitizer once you have completed processing

Please try to find the time to collect pods, process pods and keep up the momentum for monarchs. They are counting on us!

If you have any questions or are interested in processing, please get in touch with Marci or me. We are happy to help you with supplies and support.

<mailto:ophi@pheasantsforever.org>

Yours in Conservation,

Marci Lininger and Mike Retterer