

Water Germination of Milkweed Seeds

from seed to soil in seven days*

MATERIALS

- seed warming mat
- dechlorinated water
- thermometer
- cups or bowls

PROCESS

Milkweed seeds are placed in a cup of fresh dechlorinated water and warmed to approximately 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Twice each day, every twelve hours, the water is drained and replenished. Seeds often germinate in two to seven days. Seeds not germinated after seven days can be placed in cold moist stratification for thirty days before trying again.

STEP-BY-STEP

Day 1 AM

- seeds are put in a cup
- add one inch of dechlorinated water to the cup
- cup is placed on seed warming mat

Day 1 PM

- check water temperature with thermometer 75~85 degrees
- drain water and add one inch of dechlorinated water

Day 2 thru 6

- check water temperature as needed 80 degrees is a good target temperature
- drain the water and add one inch of dechlorinated water every twelve hours

Day 7

- plant the sprouting seed root in soil with the leaf end above the soil and water deeply



Scan QR code for Water Germination method

*Recommended method April thru September. Germination rates vary by seed and by species. Cold Moist Stratification is not required for Water Germination.

Cold Moist Stratification of Milkweed Seeds

by Brad Grimm at Grow Milkweed Plants

MATERIALS:

- tap water
- paper towel
- milkweed seeds
- ziplock bag
- permanent marker
- dish soap (optional)
- refrigerator



Scan QR code for
CMS method

PROCESS:

Cold Moist Stratification (CMS) describes the process that seeds naturally progress through. Timing of the process occurs naturally when the seed is dispersed from the milkweed plant in the fall and continues until the seed begins to grow in the spring. The process I am presenting for CMS is designed to simulate winter conditions and can be applied to the milkweed seed at any time of the year in your home.

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Clean the surface of your counter thoroughly.
2. Take one sheet off your roll of paper towels.
3. Wet the paper towel with cold tap water from the sink.
4. Optionally - Add a drop of dish soap. Reduces mold formation on paper towel.
5. Use one hand to squeeze out all of the water you can from the paper towel.
6. Spread out the paper towel on a clean surface.
7. Evenly scatter the milkweed seeds onto the paper towel.
8. Fold/roll-up the paper towel and seeds.
9. Place the paper towel, now covered in seeds, inside the ziplock bag.
10. Seal the ziplock bag while removing excess air from inside the bag.
11. Print the date and seed species on the baggie using a permanent marker.
12. Place the bag in the refrigerator for 40 to 60 days.
13. Set a reminder to retrieve the seeds 40 to 60 days from today.
14. When 40 to 60 days have elapsed, remove the seed bag from the fridge.
15. Leave the seed bag on the counter for 2 to 7 days.
16. Plant the seeds and water daily until they germinate.

CMS works well October thru March. Begin the 40 to 60 day process up to three months before the date of last frost at your location. Direct sowing milkweed seeds in September and October is how the seed are propagated in nature. Nature often provides low germination for milkweed seeds. Hopefully this guide helps you get above average growing results.