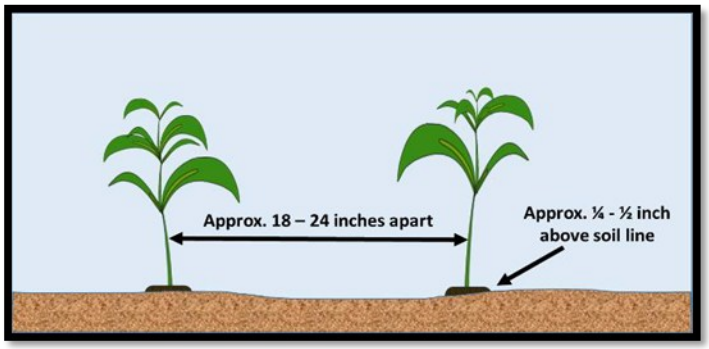
Milkweed Plug Planting Instructions

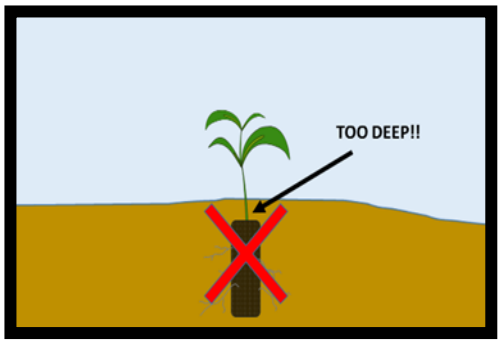
SITE SELECTION

Milkweed will take full sun but is adaptable to most conditions, being easy to grow in soils with good drainage, even with no summer water. It does not like to be moved once planted. It is drought tolerant, produces nectar, attracts beneficial pollinators and contributes to a healthy environment.

PLANTING

Seedlings should be planted approx. 18-24 in. apart; the top of plug should remain approx. ¼ - ½ in. above soil line. Plant in blocks rather than long rows so monarch caterpillars can crawl between them to find food.





CARE

Check soil for adequate moisture periodically during the next 6-7 months. Water seedlings if soil is dry but avoid overwatering. Weeds should be occasionally removed so they don't overtake the milkweed. Milkweed plants do not require fertilization.

Avoid using insecticides/herbicides around milkweed.

Seedlings may not bloom the first year but the leaves will be a food source for monarch caterpillars.

Milkweeds are perennial flowers that grow 1 to 3 ft. tall. They grow in a variety of soils including sandy, clay, and saline. The flowers attract honeybees, birds, green metallic bees and other native bees, as well as butterflies like fritillaries and swallowtails, and are the exclusive diet for monarch butterfly caterpillars.

Source: USDA-NRCS Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center