

Gardener's Guidelines Series #2 Collecting Seeds from Native Plants

Interest in incorporating native plants in home gardens and landscape settings has increased dramatically in the past few years. Many species, unfortunately, are not available commercially. Growing plants from seeds (even if they are available commercially) is one method of increasing the diversity of your garden. It can also increase your appreciation and understanding of the ecology of Maryland's native plants.

This series is designed to increase awareness of the threats to native plant populations via irresponsible collecting of wild plants. By offering these guidelines, we can protect Maryland's native flora while still enjoying their many benefits in the garden. These guidelines are based on those by the Canadian Wildflower Society, now the North American Native Plant Society.

Gardener's Guidelines Series #1 *Obtaining and Using Native Plants* is available from the Society: visit the website or write for a copy.

Maryland Native Plant Society

The Maryland Native Plant Society uses education, research, and community service to increase awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats leading to their conservation and restoration.

Membership is open to all who are interested in Maryland's native plants and their habitats. Preserving Maryland's natural heritage, increasing knowledge about native plants, and helping to further the Society's mission are our goals.

The Maryland Native Plant Society sponsors monthly meetings, workshops, field trips, and an annual fall conference.

MNPS is a non-profit organization. All gifts to MNPS are tax deductible.

References

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada; William Cullina; 2000; Houghton Mifflin Co.; 322 pp. ISBN: 0-39596-6094

Seeds: Ecology, Biogeography, and Evolution of Dormancy and Germination; Carol C. Baskin and Jerry M. Baskin; 1998; Academic Press; 666 pp. ISBN: 0-120802-600

Seeds of Woody Plants in North America; James A. Young and Cheryl G. Young; 1992; Dioscorides Press: Portland, Oregon; 407 pp. ISBN: 0-931146-21-6

The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed to Tissue Culture: A Practical Working Guide to the Propagation of over 1100 Species; Michael A. Dirr and Charles W. Heuser; 1987; Varsity Press Inc.; 1100 pp., ISBN: 0-942-37500-9

Collecting Processing and Germinating Seeds of Wildland Plants; James A. Young and Cheryl G. Young; 1986; Timber Press; 236 pp. ISBN: 0-881920-576

Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers; Harry R. Phillips; 1985; University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill; 325 pp. ISBN: 0-8078-4131-5

Visit our web site at www.mdflora.org for an extensive bibliography on native plants.

Maryland Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914
www.mdflora.org

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Maryland Native Plant Society

Gardener's Guidelines Series Number 2



Guidelines for Collecting Seeds from Native Plants

If you would like collect seeds in order to grow native plants, we encourage you to follow these recommendations to help preserve Maryland's native flora in natural areas, while enjoying their many benefits in your own garden.

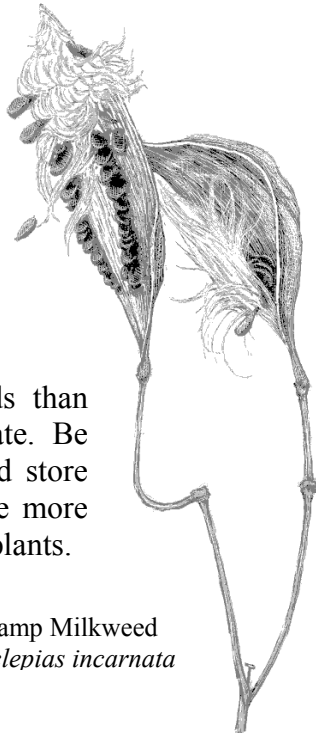
1. DO NOT DISRUPT NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES either in the wild or on your property.

2. Obtain permission from all landowners (private or public) before collecting seeds.

3. Learn appropriate propagation methods before collecting seeds. All native plants require special techniques; avoid species that are difficult to propagate and that are rare, threatened, or endangered.

4. Select species that have originated in your immediate bioregion. Such plants and seeds are best adapted to the local climate, soil, predators, pollinators and disease.

5. Collect no more seeds than you can actually propagate. Be very careful to collect and store seeds properly so they are more likely to grow into viable plants.



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata

6. Never collect all the seeds from a single plant or a small group of plants of the same species. Collect only a few seeds from different plants of a population. Leave most seeds for natural dispersal and as food for animals.

7. Exercise extreme caution when collecting seeds in order not to damage the surrounding flora and fauna and leave no evidence that you were there.

8. Keep accurate records of where, what, and when you have collected seeds and mark each seed container with this information.

9. Observe the plants *in situ* to accurately mimic their natural propagation regime. Notice the soil and moisture required for proper growth.

10. Promote the propagation of bio-regionally native plants as an educational and conservation measure to encourage the preservation of natural habitats.

11. Openly share your botanical knowledge with the public but ensure that native plant species communities will not be damaged in the process.

12. Cooperate with arboreta, botanical gardens, museums and universities in the propagation and study of native species.

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We thank you for your support!
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 Do not include my e-mail address in directory.

Please include me on the MNPS providers list as a:

- native plant propagator/grower/supplier
 native plant landscaper or gardener

Comp. /Org. _____

Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$25.00/year
 Double: \$35.00/year
 Student: \$15.00/year
 Lifetime: \$250.00

Please make checks payable to:

Maryland Native Plant Society.

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