



**Douglass
King Seeds**

Mariposa Zizotes Milkweed

Best Time To Plant:
Fall or Spring

Planting Depth:
1/4-inch deep

Sunlight:
Full sun, 6-8 hours per day

Soil Type:
Prefers well-drained soils

Height: 1-2.5 feet tall

Germination Time:
A seedling will emerge in about 2 weeks

Regions:
Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico

Uses:
Larval Host for butterflies, such as the Monarch and Queen Butterflies

Birds use seed material for nests

Part of a Texas Native Prairie

Nectar feeds beneficial pollinators

Mariposa Zizotes Milkweed, *Asclepias oenotheroides*, is a warm season perennial native to Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. It has a unique flower compared to other milkweeds. The pale green flowers of the Zizotes are single and close to the stem. It has been commonly called a side-cluster milkweed, referring to the unique flower structure. It grows to be about 1 to 2.5-foot tall and blooms from April through October.

Milkweed is a known host plant for the Monarch Butterfly caterpillar and the flowers are a nectar source for a variety of pollinators. This plant is a great food source for native bees.

Planting depth:
Plant 1/4 inch deep and firmly pack.

Cold Stratification:
You can cold stratify the seed before planting. This involves placing the seed in a moistened coffee filter and putting it in a sealing plastic bag, or container, and storing in the fridge for 14-30 days.

Afterwards you can plant the seed directly in the ground or in a seed starting tray that is at least 4 to 8-inches deep because milkweed quickly develops a deep root system.

However, in areas that do not get weeks of freezing temperatures in the winter - such as Central and South Texas - you do not have to cold stratify.

For the warmer regions, we recommend planting directly in the ground, or putting in a moist coffee filter and plastic bag for



a few days before planting. Make sure to keep the coffee filter moist so the seed can absorb all the water.

Watering:
After planting in the ground water frequently for the first two weeks. Do not over water. The soil should be moist, but water should not be pooling. Keep an eye on the rain and step back on watering if there is adequate rainfall. After the milkweed begins to grow, water it every other week if the soil is dry.

Caution: All milkweeds are somewhat toxic to humans and animals. When planting, please be mindful of the location and who has access to it for optimum safety.

The sap of the milkweed can cause skin irritation. Small children are more at risk due to their small size and curiosity.

The Monarch butterfly uses this toxin to build their defense against predators. The Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed and when the eggs hatch, the caterpillars eat the plant and absorb the toxins, thus making themselves — and their future butterfly forms — toxic to predators.*



*sourced from https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2014/mar/ed_2_monarchs

Getting The Best Success From Your Seed

The key skills of a person who has a “green thumb” are patience and preparation. Patience is needed because all of your seed will not germinate at once. Preparation is needed to ensure that you plant your seed at the right depth and at the best time.

Seeds have limited energy. If planted too deep, the seeds will use up their energy before reaching the surface and die. However, if you plant too shallow the seed could dry out, blow away, or be eaten by birds.

Planting Guidelines

- 1. Timing Is Everything!**—It’s very important to know when to plant. Seeds need adequate moisture and soil temperature to be within a certain in order to grow, and each species has different needs. Look for the recommended planting season on our brochures and on our products’ pages online: www.dkseeds.com/products/ and plan your planting around the recommended season for best results.
- 2. Know Your Region**—Plant the right seed for your region. The regions are listed on our brochures and online. If you don’t know what your region is, ask us!
- 3. Pick the right location**—Most seed needs about 8 hours of full sunlight. Pick a sunny location for your project.
- 4. Prepare the Seedbed**—Preparing the seedbed before you plant is very important. Try to remove all the other vegetation prior to planting by tilling or spraying an herbicide. The soil should be soft but not too loose. A good indicator is if your shoe leaves a print in the soil, but doesn’t sink in.
- 5. Planting Depth**—Pay attention to the recommended planting depth for each species. For most of DK Seeds’ species, a quarter-inch deep is all that is needed. You can find planting depth recommendations on the left column on all of our brochures and on our products’ pages online.
- 6. Know Your Seed Type**—Getting your seed spread in an even matter will help you ensure a successful planting. Seed spreaders can help, but only if you use the tool that works best with your type of seed. It is important to match your seed to your planter or your planter to your seed. If you need recommendations on the best tools to use, ask us!
For small areas, like a garden, hand spreading will work.
- 7. Cover the seed in soil after spreading it. Don’t cover it too deep!**
- 8. After planting, compress the soil** to compact it around the seed, ensuring good seed-to-soil contact. We recommend using a sod roller, which is available to rent at some nurseries and home improvement stores.
- 9. If you can, water** during the establishment period. Continue to monitor the moisture levels of the soil closely for the next few weeks. In lieu of rainfall, water enough to keep the soil moist for the first few weeks. If you do not have access to water, try to plan your planting with the rain.

Ask For Advice From The Pros!

If you have any questions, we are just a phone call away! But we are not the only ones with a wealth of knowledge. State and federal wildlife agents are invaluable sources of information and advice. There are County Extension Agents with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in each county that can also advise you on your project. Go to <https://counties.agrilife.org/> to see a list of agents by county.

The best advice we can give is this: Do not cut corners— You can cut enough corners to ensure a failure!

Use this ruler to help you gauge your planting depth. Fold the page in half to make more sturdy.

1"

3/4"

1/2"

1/4"