

Protocol Information

Natural Resources Conservation Service -
Appalachian Plant Materials Center
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United States Department of Agriculture

Family Scientific Name: **Asclepiadaceae**
Family Common Name: **Milkweed family**
Scientific Name: *Asclepias incarnata L.*
Common Name: **Swamp milkweed**
Species Code: **ASIN**
Ecotype: **Monongahela National Forest**
General Distribution: **Widely distributed across the US and Canada from Quebec and Maine south to Florida and Texas and west to Nevada and Idaho.**
Known Invasiveness: **Not known to be invasive in the US.**
Propagation Goal: **Plants**
Propagation Method: **Seed**
Product Type: **Container (plug)**
Time To Grow: **6 Months**
Target Specifications: **A well developed plant suitable for transplanting with at least 12" top growth and a healthy root system.**
Propagule Collection: **Seeds were collected from multiple existing populations within the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest. Mature seed pods were collected from numerous plants to ensure genetic diversity.**
Propagule Processing: **Seed pods were placed in a breathable cloth bag to allow for air drying. Seed pods were opened to remove the enclosed seeds. The seeds were cleaned**

by hand to separate the seeds from the fluffy hairs.

Pre-Planting Treatments: **No pretreatment was used.**

Growing Area Preparation/

Annual Practices for Perennial Crops: **Pro-mix BX with biofungicide was moistened and placed in heavy plastic trays. The soil was compacted somewhat to prepare a firm seedbed.**

Establishment Phase: **Seed was spread evenly on the soil surface and then covered with 1/4 inch of additional soil. The top layer was pressed down slightly to ensure good seed to soil contact. The trays were placed in the cooler (34 degrees) for 30 days to allow for cold, moist stratification.**

Length of Establishment Phase: **1 month**

Active Growth Phase: **After cold stratification, the trays were moved directly to the greenhouse for germination. Seedlings began to emerge after about 2 weeks in the greenhouse. Once the seedlings had developed sufficient root systems, they were transplanted into quart plastic containers filled with Metro-mix 510 growing media.**

Length of Active Growth Phase: **5 months**

Hardening Phase: **Plants were moved into the shadehouse to allow for hardening off before shipping.**

Length of Hardening Phase: **2 weeks**

Harvesting, Storage and Shipping: **Plants with sufficient top growth and root development were shipped back to the Monongahela National Forest for transplanting. Trailers were covered with tarps to prevent excessive wind burn damage.**

Length of Storage: **1 day**

Outplanting performance on typical sites: **Swamp milkweed, as the common name implies, performs best in high moisture environments but it can survive in drier areas. Recommended sites for outplanting include riverbanks, flood plains, swamps, wet meadows, etc.**

Other Comments: **Swamp milkweed seeds often fall prey to weevil larvae while still in the seed pods. This will have a significant effect on the viability of the seeds.**

References: **USDA, NRCS. 2012. The PLANTS Database(<http://plants.usda.gov>, 12 July 2012). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-49041 USA.**

Citation:

Lester, Randall; Vandevender, John. 2014. Propagation protocol for production of container *Asclepias incarnata* L. plants; Natural Resources Conservation Service - Appalachian Plant Materials Center, Alderson, West Virginia. In: Native Plant Network. URL: <http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 23 June 2014). Moscow (ID): University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Forest Research Nursery.