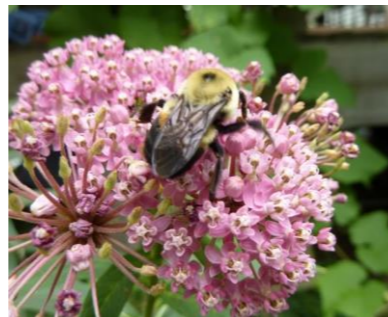




Milkweed – More than just a Weed!





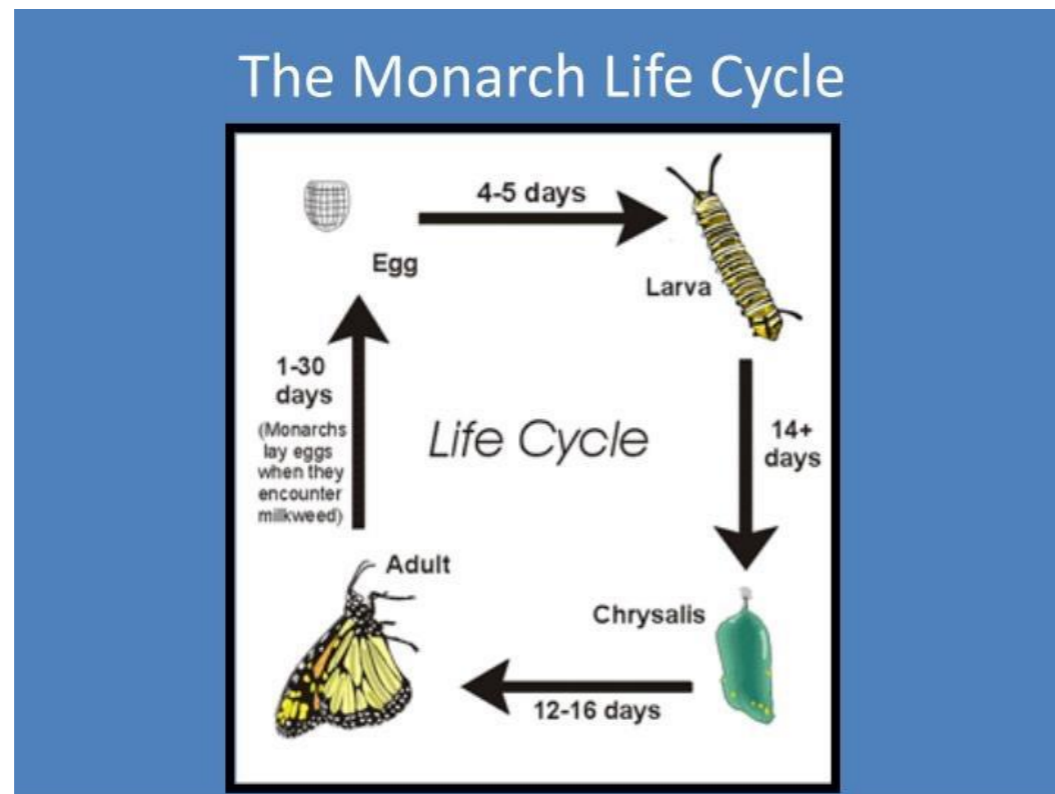
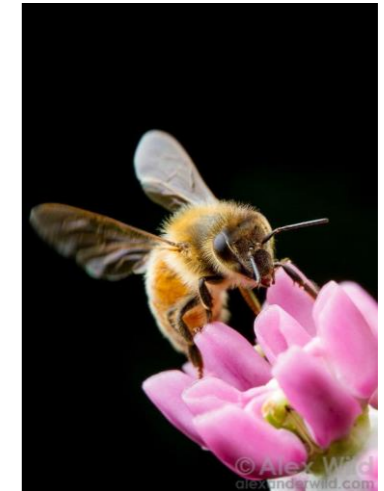
Is because Heather Darby asked me what I thought about growing Milkweed



The Milkweed plant is the sole food source for the Monarch caterpillar



Bees love the flowers

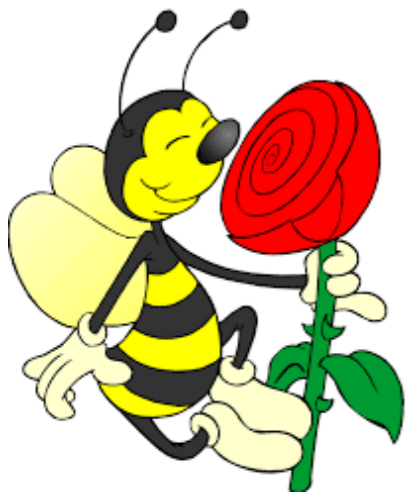


The Monarch butterfly starts laying their eggs in June here in Vermont



Ever smell
Milkweed when its in flower?

Ever try honey made from
Milkweed?





honey





Eatable & Medicinal



Despite its poor reputation as a weed, the common milkweed played a vital role locally and throughout the nation during World War II when it became a strategic resource gathered by school children.

Replacement for Kapok



Members of the Field and Farm 4-H Club of Glastonbury, Connecticut, who collected 240 bags of milkweed pods.

NOW BUYING

RIPE MILKWEED PODS

15c Per Sack

SPECIAL OPEN MESH 50 LB. ONION SACKS FILLED TO MAXIMUM CAPACITY.
Sacks Distributed — Information Given — Pods Purchased
at following Buying Stations in this area.

Wm. Metzger GAYLORD	Stanley Cherry ELMIRA	Vern Welch JOHANNESBURG
Ira House SPARR	Darrell Fleming HALLOCK	Claude Wilson VANDERBILT

PICK PODS • BUY WAR BONDS

War Hemp Industries, Inc. — Milkweed Floss Division — Petoskey, Michigan

WANTED

15,000,000 Lbs. Ripe Milkweed Pods

FOR USE IN THE WAR EFFORT

Government needs Milkweed Floss as a replacement for Kapok in the making of Life Preservers, Aviators Jackets and other military purposes.

Harvesting to start about September 25 or as soon as pods are ripe; Seeds in pods must be brown.

15c per bag for fresh pods — 20c per bag for dry pods delivered to buying station nearest you.

EMMET COUNTY BUYING STATIONS

Petoskey—Emmet County Fair Grounds	Pellston RFD—William LaTocha, Larks Lake
Epsilon—Henry Maxwell, Petoskey, R-2	Bliss—Frank LaTocha Store
Curtis School Area—Walter Turman, Petoskey R-2	Cross Village—Marsek Store
Alanson—Fairbairn & Sons	Good Hart—Dale Lamkin
Brutus—John Steen	Stutsmanville—Ralph Radle
Pellston—Calvin Gillett	Harbor Springs—Philips Service Station (Maurice Philips)
Levering—Chester LaTocha Store	Bay Shore—Jack Hinkley

Pick Milkweed Pods for Victory--for Profit

War Hemp Industries, Inc., Milkweed Floss Division, Petoskey, Mich.

How Did Young Americans Support War Effort in WWII?



Boy Scouts collect milkweed pods for lifejacket stuffing

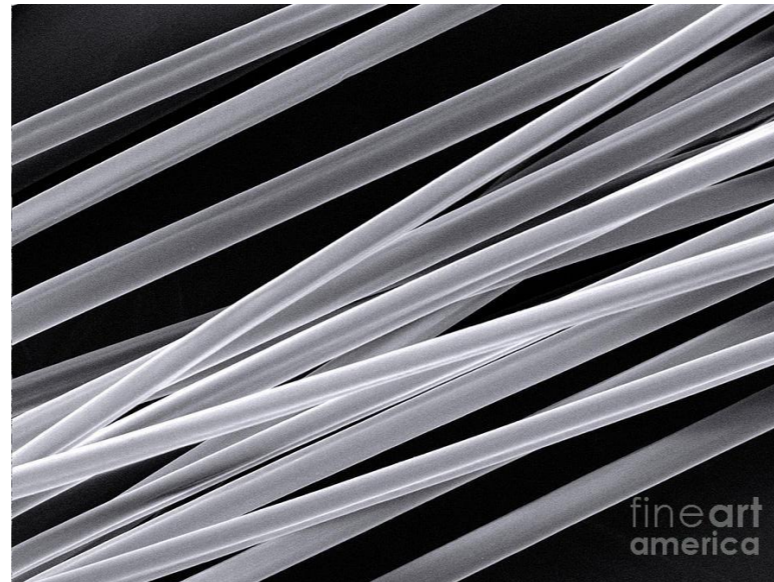
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COOPERATIVE MONARK

SERVING PRODUCERS OF MILKWEED



*There are 127 producers in the Coop
With 2000 acres in production in Quebec*



The special properties of the fiber make it an advantageous and ecological substitute for different applications: vegetable silk, oil absorbent, thermal and acoustic insulation.



Three stages of Milkweed pod processing

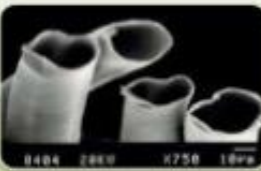
The properties of Milkweed make it the ideal alternative for oil absorption



Highly Hydrophobic
Contact angle is 147°



Oleophilic
Absorbs 40X its weight
Absorbs quickly



Hollow fibre
Trap oil inside and around



Low density and High buoyancy

Absorbent products made with milkweed fibres or fragmented pods



HydroNature S-2



HydroNature S-5



HydroNature SP-5



HydroNature M-6



HydroNature M-4



HydroNature M-7



Milkweed pods
Milkweed fiber

follicule d'asclépiade
fibre d'asclépiade

Coop supplies milkweed to fill contract with Parks Canada to supply national parks with oil-spill kits

HydroNature™

1kg of milkweed fibers
absorbs 50 liters of oil
(ASTM F716 with 0,78 density oil)



5 X more absorbent than
synthetic polypropylene
alternative



7 milkweed plants to clean a one gallon oil spill

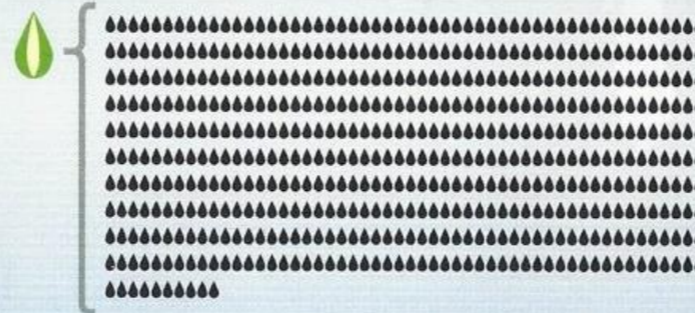
Spill volume (gallons)	10000
Qty of fiber required (lbs)	1667
Equivalent plantation surface (acres)	3,6
Number of plants	75000

HOW CAN A PRODUCT THAT CLEANS UP OIL SPILLS ALSO HELP MONARCHS

Thousands of acres of milkweed are seeded to produce oil absorbents .

Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed for reproduction.

**1 acre of
milkweed = 500 ten gal
spill kits**



The field's locations are dispersed across areas where milkweed already grows naturally.

No insecticide used for this crop as we rely on natural pollinators for pod production.

After the monarchs have left for the south, harvest occurs — and the habitat is ready for the next migration.

A truly sustainable industrial activity to help protect monarch's breeding grounds AND its reproduction.

ABOUT MILKWEED

Asclepias syriaca, the common milkweed, grows naturally in Canada, USA and Mexico.

The asclepias family is especially important for ecology because their flowers supply nectar to bees and a variety of desirable pollinators. The flowers are fragrant and beautiful — and they attract tourists and school children, too!

Milkweed leaves are a unique feeding source for the monarch butterfly larvae.

Seeded only once per 10 years, this perennial crop promotes soil quality through no-till cultivation and a deep root system.

Grows productively on marginal lands less suitable for food crops.

— Requires no artificial fertilizer —

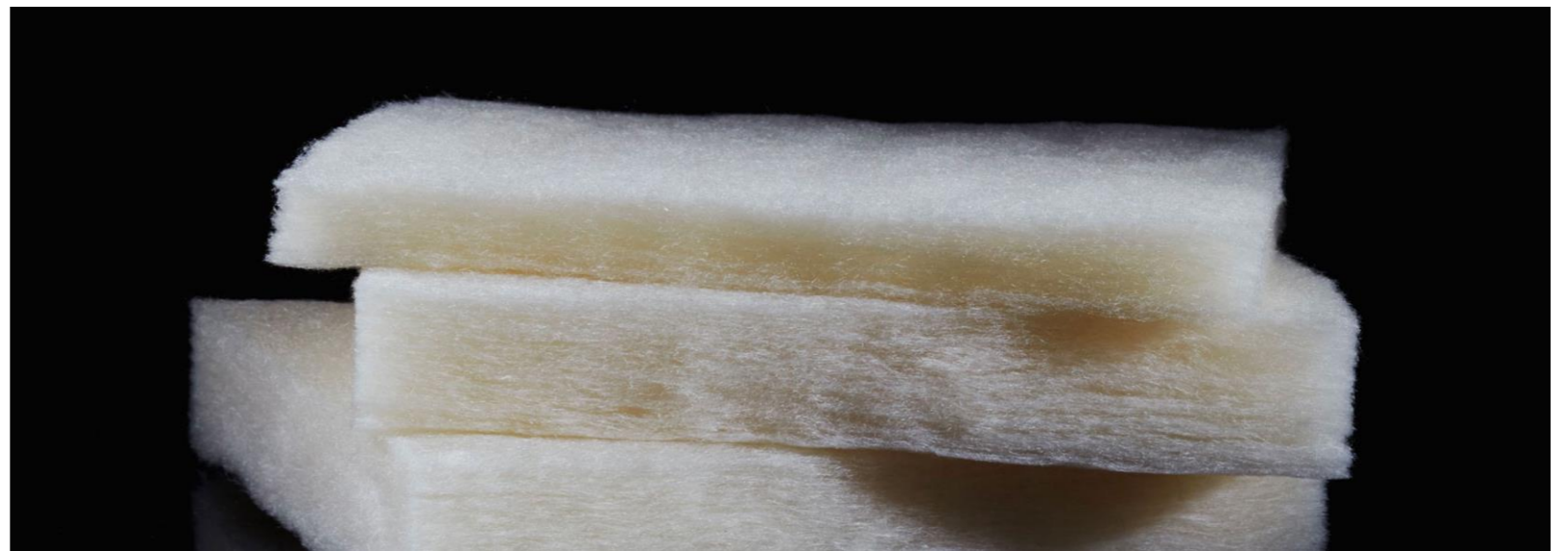
The fiber's unique properties produce a remarkable carbon-neutral substitute for conventional oil absorbent used to clean up spills.



This kit absorbs 52 gallons



Processing Milkweed fibers



*Rather than using it as a down-style loose fill, **Fiber Monark** in Canada has been weaving it into a Thinsulate sheet.*



(Testing Milkweed Insulation)

Jean-François Tardif, a mountain climbing lover, climbed Everest equipped with milkweed-insulated clothing. He even said he was too hot for the temperatures in which he was climbing (-22 degrees to +25 degrees in the sun).



Milkweed was next tested by the Canadian Coast Guard working on icebreakers. Since this fibre is very warm and water-repellent, it proved to be a perfect candidate to test in the environment they were in.



Altitude Sports, Quartz Co. and Monark™ present the
Milkweed Collection.

A local creation. Plant-based insulation. Worldwide
exclusivity.

Made in Canada.

Demand was way greater than supply



No Geese were harmed in the making of these products



June 18, 2015 - I tilled and seeded 7 acres to milkweed using an air seeder to see how it would do.



Wait I think I see one !!!



*Milkweed sprouts late and is hard to find
and it doesn't like competition*



August 2, 2015



May 25, 2016



July 26, 2017



On June 15, 2016, we used no-till seeding of Milkweed on five acres of sod and 40 acres of corn ground.



July 2016
Competition problems - everything but Milkweed



*Till same field November 2016.
This time we used an air seeder.*

Milkweed Field 2017



June 2017
No-till seeded June 2016



September 2017



Milkweed Farmer



Custom Milkweed harvester



You think Grandpa knows what he's talking about?