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?
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

Sacks Distributed — Information Given — Pods Purchased at following Buying Stations in this area.

Wm. Metzger  
Stanley Cherry  
Vern Welch  
Gaylord  
Johannesburg  
Ira House  
Darrell Fleming  
Claude Wilson  
Sparrow  
Hallock  
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
- Epsilon—Henry Maxwell, Petoskey, R-2
- Curtis School Area—Walter Turman, Petoskey R-2
- Alanson—Fairbairn & Sons
- Brutus—John Steen
- Pellston—Calvin Gillett
- Levering—Chester LaTocha Store
- Pellston RFD—William LaTocha, Lanes Lake
- Bliss—Frank LaTocha Store
- Cross Village—Marsek Store
- Good Hart—Dale Lamkin
- Stutsmanville—Ralph Radle
- Harbor Springs—Philips Service Station (Maurice Phillips)
- Bay Shore—Jack Hinkle

Pick Milkweed Pods for Victory—for Profit


How Did Young Americans Support War Effort in WWII?
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
Coop supplies milkweed to fill contract with Parks Canada to supply national parks with oil-spill kits
HydroNature

HOW CAN A PRODUCT THAT CLEAN 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.
Rather than using it as a down-style loose fill, *Fiber Monark* in Canada has been weaving it into a Thinsulate sheet.
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 MonarkTM present the Milkweed Collection.
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
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.
June 2017
No-till seeded June 2016
Milkweed Farmer
Custom Milkweed harvester
You think Grandpa knows what he’s talking about?