

Growing Milkweed in Vermont: pollinator benefits & potential floss revenues



For More Information

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Potential	Net	Revenues	from	Floss		
			\$ per acre	\$ per Acre Avg Floss Revenues		
			Avg Costs	Low	Med	High
Milkweed Planting & Harvesting Costs			\$406			
	Floss Revenues			\$241	\$704	\$1,732
	or					
	Pod Revenues			\$158	\$460	\$1,132
Net revenues when harvesting floss				-\$316	\$147	\$1,175
Net revenues when harvesting pods				-\$399	-\$97	\$575

Notes:

- Assumes planting seed costs in year one only, mechanical harvesting years 3-6, and milkweed production life of 7 years.
- Opportunity costs of foregone corn income in years 1, 4, & 7 included. Alfalfa opportunity costs for haylage excluded.
- Pod harvesting costs assumed to be the same as milkweed silk harvesting costs with re-engineered combine.
- Purchased cost of vacuum \$2000 included and re-engineering labor time based on Roger Rainville's estimate.
- Combine purchase excluded.
- Pod yields based on low and high numbers in 2018 UVM Ext. milkweed production trials
- Planting & harvesting milkweed costs based on conversations and e-mails with Roger Rainville & Mark Fiely, Ernst Conservation Seeds.
- Other production costs derived from sweetcorn budget data.
- Milkweed floss value estimates based on Purdue, UVM research, and conversations with Ernst Seeds.
- Additional revenues may be possible from sale of milkweed seeds at average \$431 per acre - but market is not guaranteed