

# How to Sow Swan Plants from Seed



One of the best ways to make sure you have enough swan plants on hand to feed all those hungry munching Monarch caterpillars is to do a little planning ahead, and grow your own seeds. Plus, swan plant seedlings can be hard to find later in the growing season, particularly if the Monarchs have a bumper year and eat up large!

## The team at Yates have pulled together some top tips on planting swan seeds:

- 1 You can sow **Yates Swan Plant Seeds** directly where they are to grow during Spring through to Autumn in the North Island, or from late Spring to early Autumn in the South Island (and colder areas of the North).
- 7 Space your plants around 1m apart in the garden
- 8 Plants will grow to around 1.5m in height



- 2 Or sow seeds earlier in the season in a glasshouse, or indoors on a warm windowsill, into seedling trays, or any container with some holes for drainage

- 9 Plants will flower in 14-16 weeks (if they get a chance – many swan plants get eaten up well before they get to flowering)

- 3 Use a good quality seed raising mix that is fine and free draining. You could try either **Yates Black Magic Seed Raising Mix** or **Yates Nature's Way Organic Seed Raising Mix**.



- 10 During Spring and Summer remember that plants need food too, just like people. Try a plant food such as **Yates Thrive Fish Blood & Bone** which has high levels of NPK nutrients for leafy plant growth.



- 4 Scatter seed thinly, cover with seed raising mix (you are aiming for the seeds to be around 5mm deep), firm down and water gently

- 5 Seeds will germinate in 14-21 days

- 6 When you take them outside and transplant into the garden, we recommend soaking the seedling in **Yates Thrive Natural Seaweed** tonic (diluted 1-2 caps per bucket). This helps the roots re-establish quickly and prevents transplant shock, plus helps with improving plant resistance for protection against pests, drought and frosts.



## Handy Hint

If you are looking to encourage both caterpillars and butterflies into your garden, then **Yates Butterfly Field Seed Mix** is perfect. You can sprinkle it directly onto your garden bed – it has 33 different varieties of vibrant colourful plants that have nectar flowers to provide food for butterflies and feed and habitat for the caterpillars. It includes plants such as Swan Plant, Asclepias, Cosmos, Marigolds, Zinnia and Californian Poppy and many more.



More Yates seeds that provide nectar for NZ's butterflies



Borage California Poppy Sunshine Mix Cosmos Sensation Echinacea Sunflower Yellow Empress Poppy Shirley Mixed Sunflower Moonwalker Sunflower Bronze Shades Asclepias Silky Mix

Related to swan plant, great caterpillar food!



Every pack of Yates Swan Plant and Yates Butterfly Field Mix seeds sold helps support the **MONARCH BUTTERFLY NEW ZEALAND TRUST** with their great work helping to locate, protect, enhance and create overwintering sites of the Monarch in NZ.

