

## Sunol Pollinator Garden Project Update - December 18, 2024

I'm providing an update for the Sunol Pollinator Garden Project. We have spent only about \$200 of the money so far to purchase seeds. We were in the experimental stage of the project. We planted seeds of Narrowleaf Milkweed, Heartleaf Milkweed, Showy Milkweed & Butterfly Milkweed. The Heartleaf Milkweed didn't grow at all, and the other 3 seemed to grow decently in the greenhouse. We also put some in the fridge to cold stratify them so we could compare the 2. We have lots of seedlings available now, but they are very small and won't survive in the ground due to extreme cold temperatures right now. After a lot of research and discussing with a botanist/environmental scientist, we've discovered that the seedlings actually shouldn't go in the ground until it gets warm (around May) so we are actually at a time to hold for now. We will wait to plant more seeds in the greenhouse for March. We are ordering the rest of the seeds with the money and will cold stratify them for 3 months (so we will start the process in January). I have attached a few photos of the plants so far. The beginning of this project was more experimental since we didn't know how they would grow best and we wanted to make sure they would survive before we offered them to the community.

In March we will also have kids at Sunol Glen School make seed bombs to throw along Niles Canyon Train and anywhere with permission in Sunol to throw them with wildflower seeds to grow more pollinator plants.

I anticipate we will have a better update for you in May of 2025 once we are distributing the plants to the community. If you want another update between now and May 2025, I can provide one maybe in March after we plant the seeds in the greenhouse and after we've spent the money on seeds and supplies.

You can follow our project on FB "Sunol Pollinator Garden Project" if you'd like! We are excited about spring and looking forward to getting this project rolling more!









