

Healthy swan plant seeds only please

Swan plant seed pods are recognisable by their “swan” shape – the S-shaped stem attaching the ovoid pod to the plant and the little flicked-up beak on the pod. If they don’t resemble swans they may be “giant swan plants” (globose, unbeaked) or a hybrid. Germination rates differ between types and this makes it difficult in a commercial scenario.

If the pods have (or have had) bugs on them (e.g. aphids) or have burst before they are ripe the quality of the seed will be affected and will lower the value of the collection. We would rather you did not send that seed.

If you don’t think you have swan plant pods please send a photo to me (jacqui@nzbutterflies.org.nz) for ID. If it’s NOT swan plant seed it could be sent directly to me (Jacqui Knight, 3 Morpeth Place, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland 0600) for other uses.

Seed bags



Putting organza bags onto the pods makes it easier and quicker so please use them if you need them. Here is a video of me putting a seed bag onto a plant.

If you need bags please email me (jacqui@nzbutterflies.org.nz) with roughly how many you’d like (10, 20, 50, 100?) and if you add your address (plus postcode) it will save me time looking it up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiSBq080P4A>

Do not tie the ribbons, just pull them tight around the stem.

Collecting seed

Seed must be collected when it is dry, i.e. no moisture on the plant (late morning or early afternoon on a sunny day). When the pod has burst, the coma or silk will be in the bag with the seed. Here is me cutting the stem to remove the bag.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BOc75Nd1qd4>

Keep the pods together in a paper bag, in a cool, dry place. You can add a desiccant from a pill bottle if you like. Mark and Jo suggest you separate the seed from the coma, and the easiest way is on this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5b2-lIQSCg&t=5s>

Sending seed

Send the seed when you have a good lot - not one or two pods please. Please keep the bags for reuse or ask Jacqui for more (jacqui@nzbutterflies.org.nz) if you need them. Remember to tell her your mail address.

Seed should be sent or delivered to:

Mark Bateman
84 Mt Albert Road
Mt Albert
Auckland 1025

Please put your return address on the envelope, and a message if there is more to come.