



## **“Project Milkweed” Bulk Order**

### **Specifications**

This procurement is to secure 750,000 units of milkweed seed packets in support of the State of Tennessee’s “Project Milkweed” offering. “Project Milkweed” was launched in late June 2023 as a free mail-order milkweed seed service, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Pollinator Habitat Program. As of mid-August, orders for seed material have exceeded current supply. This procurement will allow for all statewide orders to be fulfilled.

### **Definitions:**

- a) Red Milkweed - (*Asclepias incarnata*) is also called swamp milkweed, is an erect, clump-forming, native perennial which is commonly found in swamps, river bottomlands and wet meadows. Stems exude a toxic milky sap when cut. Flowers are followed by attractive seed pods (to 4” long) which split open when ripe releasing silky-haired seeds easily carried by the wind. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies as a nectar source. Red milkweed is an important food source for the larval stage of Monarch butterflies.
  
- b) Common Milkweed - (*Asclepias syriaca*) is a native perennial which occurs in fields, open woods, roadsides and along railroad tracks throughout much of North America. Stems and leaves exude a milky sap when cut or bruised. Flowers give way to prominent, warty seed pods (2-4” long) which split open when ripe releasing their numerous silky-tailed seeds for dispersal by the wind. Seed pods are valued in dried flower arrangements. Flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and leaves are a food source for monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars).

### **What:**

- 1) 375,000 units of Red Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) seed packets.
  - a) Seed packets are to be printed using the custom artwork provided are below. Full custom artwork shall be provided by vendor as part of this procurement.
  - b) Each seed packets shall contain 20 seeds each.



- 2) 375,000 units of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed packets.
- a) Seed packets are to be printed using the custom artwork provided are below. Full custom artwork shall be provided by vendor as part of this procurement.
  - b) Each seed packet shall contain 20 seeds each.



- 3) All 750,000 units shall be shipped to the following address:
- Department of General Services  
Warehouse Administration  
c/o Joyce Gupton  
6500 Centennial Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37209

**When:**

Partial shipments are acceptable. TDOT prefers, but does not require, shipment of seed packets to take place before October 15, 2023. All seed packets should be shipped no later than October 31, 2023.

**Where:**

The shipping address is a warehouse with delivery accommodations suitable for liftgates. A shipping point of contact with the State of Tennessee's Department of General Services is as follows:

Ms. Joyce Gupton  
Department of General Services  
Stores Manager  
6500 Centennial Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37209  
[Joyce.gupton@tn.gov](mailto:Joyce.gupton@tn.gov)  
(615) 946-8077

**How:**

All printing, assembly, and shipping costs are to be included in the bid price. Sample packets of Red Milkweed and Common Milkweed are requested as a proof to TDOT prior to printing. The TDOT contact for approval of the proof is as follows:

Mr. Mike McClanahan  
Transportation Manager  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
James K. Polk Building, Suite 400  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243  
[Michael.McClanahan@tn.gov](mailto:Michael.McClanahan@tn.gov)  
(615) 806-2489