

Join the Pod Patrol!

Pluck pods in your own neighborhood, share this information with your neighbors, or join a Pod Patrol event at Fresh Pond.



Fresh Pond Monarch Watch

Pod Patrol: Pre-Monarch Prep!

Sat. July 16, 1-3pm & Mon. July 18, 5:30-7:30pm
Meets at volunteer trailer in the Water Dept. parking lot at 250 Fresh Pond Pkwy.

Help us patrol the Reservation for black swallow-wort, an invasive, non-native plant that threatens monarch butterflies. We will be releasing monarch butterflies at Fresh Pond on Saturday, August 6th to help a struggling wild population: getting rid of black swallow-wort will help our Fresh Pond Monarchs thrive! No experience or equipment necessary.

For more information, contact Martine at (617)-349-6489 or e-mail fpr@cambridgema.gov.



For more information
CambridgeMA.gov/podpatrol or
[Facebook.com/CambridgePodPatrol](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgePodPatrol)
or email fpr@cambridgema.gov

Sponsored by

Fresh Pond Reservation Volunteer Stewards,
CentersAndSquares.com, Grow Native
Massachusetts, Friends of Fresh Pond Reservation,
& the City of Cambridge

UNWANTED

by farmers, gardeners, birds,
butterflies, & native plants:

BLACK

SWALLOW-WORT



Cambridge
POD PATROL
Spread the Word... Not the Weed

All About Black Swallow-wort

Beginning with shiny green leaves in pairs, purple star-shaped flowers, and grappling spaghetti-like roots, in summer, Black Swallow-wort becomes armed with seed pods resembling green chili peppers. This invasive vine threatens monarch butterflies and songbirds, and displaces native plant communities vital to insects, birds and other urban wildlife. Known to frequent chain-link fences, it is also found in woodlands, gardens and shrubs throughout Cambridge neighborhoods - and is spreading fast!



Now that you know about it, you'll probably start to notice it everywhere you go. While it is difficult to dig it out completely because of its extensive roots, pulling green seed pods before they turn brown and open up is one important thing we can do to control this invader. The seed pods become recognizable in June.



Leaves

Shiny, green, come in pairs, quickly winding around fences and shrubs



Flowers

Small, purple, star-shaped



Roots

White and fleshy tentacles that break off easily



Seed pods

Pull when pods are still slim, smooth and green - before they open



**Be careful pulling brown, papery pods that have already opened up -mature seeds easily escape!*



What can you do to help?

To prevent seeds inside pods from escaping and spreading to new areas: Pick the pods, preferably before they turn brown, open up, and release seeds. Put them in a tightly closed bag, and dispose of them in the trash. *Do not put pods into yard waste bags or in your compost!*



If you find black swallow-wort on your own property: Dig up the plant with its entire root system, put it in a tightly closed bag, and dispose of it in the trash. *Do not put into yard waste bags or in your compost!* The roots will re-sprout, and seeds are not destroyed in composting operations.

