Milkweed Restoration
The cost benefit of planting seeds vs. containerized plugs

Overview
Research Question: Does the success rate for milkweed differ when established from seeds vs. containerized plugs?
Secondary questions:
- How could this apply to habitat management?
- How best should managers incorporate milkweed in restoration projects?
- Does this information have potential to change milkweed propagation in the valley?

Background
- The Monarch Butterfly was petitioned for protection under Endangered Species Act in 2014
- Milkweed acts as natal breeding grounds for monarch butterflies
- Milkweed populations have dropped up to 90% in areas across the U.S
- Milkweed is included in some prairie restoration projects in the Willamette Valley
- Three sites were chosen to monitor and sample the growth and success of seeded and containerized planted plugs of Asclepias Speciosa (showy milkweed).

Data Analysis
- Data was organized based on date collected and seeds or plugs
- Data was compiled and compared to previous counts to determine if there was a difference

Results
- Plug survival rate averaged 64% in July 2017 compared to seed survival of 0%.
- Plug survival rate averaged 48% in August 2017 compared to seed survival of 0%.
- In 2018, the random sampling was changed to controlled intuitive sampling and milkweed from seed was found in two of the three areas.
- Both seeds and plugs are viable ways to introduce milkweed into restoration plots.