

## Gladstone Regional Seed Library

### What is it?

A seed library collection is where the library loans out seeds instead of books or DVDs.

### How does it work?

Gladstone Regional Library members borrow seeds for free then plant and tend to their crops. The return on this long-term loan is not fresh produce but instead the return of some seeds from the yield. These seeds are then made available for members to plant next season

### Seed Donations:

The library is happy to accept donated seeds. When giving a donation you will be required to fill in a seed donation form with as much details about the plant as possible. Gladstone Regional Libraries are not accountable for the content of seed donations and any errors in the information provided with them.

### Information Handouts:

This range of information sheets and activities have been designed to provide basic information on the seeds available and help teachers and parents encourage and inspire their children's interest in nature.

### Curriculum Ideas:

Science: parts of plants, what plants need to grow, seed germination, pollination by bees

Numeracy: measuring height over a period of time, selling plants, making seed packets, weighing and counting seeds, patterns in nature (Fibonacci series)

Literacy: diary of plant growth, writing seed sowing instructions, plant care and harvesting

Art: plants in paintings and botanical artists. Inspiration for own artwork

History/geography: The Inca and Aztec people and sunflowers

## Further Reading and References

The following resources contain more information about the topic:

1. Abc.net.au, (2014). *Gardening Australia - Just Add Sunshine*. [online] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s2442863.htm> [Accessed 10 Jul. 2014].
2. Eaglescliffe, B. (2014). *Gardening Activities with Kids - Sunflowers Large Seeds Big Flowers*. [online] HubPages. Available at: <http://betheaglescliffe.hubpages.com/hub/Gardening-activities-with-kids-Sunflowers-Large-Seeds-Big-Flowers> [Accessed 10 Jul. 2014].
3. Yates.com.au, (2014). *Yates Kids - Garden Greenies*. [online] Available at: <http://www.yates.com.au/kids-gardening/in-the-garden/grow-a-giant-sunflower> [Accessed 10 Jul. 2014].
4. RHS Campaign for School Gardening: Growing Sunflowers. (2007). 1st ed. [ebook] Royal Horticultural Society. Available at: [http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/uploads/documents/Growing%20sunflowers%20in%20school\\_1347.pdf](http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/uploads/documents/Growing%20sunflowers%20in%20school_1347.pdf) [Accessed 10 Jul. 2014].

### Let it Grow - #HomeMakerSpace

Combining the traditional Homemaker skills with the "give it a go" principle of technology focused Makerspace movement.

The "Let it Grow" – #HomeMakerSpace Project is designed to complement the current digital literacy programs currently run by Gladstone Regional Council Library Service, by offering a range of activities that draws upon a broad range of low-tech practical skills from the past and utilizing digital literacy training sessions to aid in the sharing and preservation of local knowledge and skills.



GLADSTONE REGIONAL  
LIBRARIES

## Let it Grow #HomeMakerSpace Project Seed Library

### Sunflowers



Image: Sunflowers  
Source: Tim Geers

# Plant Name

## Scientific Profile

<b>Kingdom:</b>	Plantae
<b>Subkingdom:</b>	Tracheobionta
<b>Superdivision:</b>	Spermatophyta
<b>Phylum:</b>	Magnoliophyta
<b>Class:</b>	Magnoliopsida
<b>Subclass:</b>	Asteridae
<b>Order:</b>	Asterales
<b>Family:</b>	Asteraceae
<b>Genus:</b>	<i>Helianthus</i> L.
<b>Species:</b>	<i>annuus</i>
<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>
<b>Common Name:</b>	Sunflower

## Growing Profile

### Description:

- Tall annual growing 50cm-390cm high
- Produces one or several to many wide flower heads

### Growing Conditions:

- Full Sun
- Propagated from seed
- Plant seed in Spring or early Summer
- Water well
- Well drained soil

## How to grow a sunflower

### Equipment:

- Seeds (dwarf varieties for pots, tall varieties for garden)
- Soil/Potting mix
- Pot
- Watering can/Garden Hose
- Trowel/shovel
- Gardening gloves
- Mask (while handling potting mix)
- Slow release fertiliser (optional)

### Set Up:

1. Check the seed packet for the best month to plant seeds (best to wait after all frost has disappeared)
2. Pick a part of your garden that has plenty of sun and is near a fence or wall, so the plants are protected from the wind
3. Push the seeds into the soil about 1cm deep.
4. Plant seeds 30cm apart or 1-2 in each pot
5. Gently water (don't drown) and don't let it dry out. Sunflowers like the soil moist
6. The sunflower should be fully grown after about 10 weeks

## Seed Harvesting Tips

Methods of saving seeds will depend on the type of plant. Here are some general seed saving tips.

### Dry Seeds

Harvest dry seeds from their plants when their pods or husks have dried. Some seeds can be picked before they are fully dried on the plants if rains threaten. Other plants, however, (i.e., *Mustard family*), will not finish ripening once they have been removed from the plant. Leaving seeds on the parent plant to full maturity and dryness is always preferable.

### Wet Seeds

To clean wet seeds, scoop the seeds from the ripe fruit, pulp and all. Pour the seeds and pulp into a large, sloping bowl and add water. Healthy seeds will sink to the bottom of the bowl, while dead seeds and most of the pulp will float. Use your fingers to gently separate all the seeds from the pulp. Then, to remove the pulp and dead seeds, by repeating this rinsing process several times, the seeds can be gotten very clean

Once you have harvested the seeds, make sure to dry them thoroughly so they don't mold.

Check the library collection for more seed saving ideas.

## Uses

Now that you've grow your sunflower, what can you do with it?

Try this:

### Trail Mix Recipe

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup almonds (raw)
- 1 cup sunflower seed (raw)
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup dried apricot (unsulphured, chopped)
- 1/4 cup flaked coconut (optional)
- 1/4 cup chocolate (optional) or carob chips (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Pour everything into a large container, cover and shake!
2. Store in an air tight container. Place in the fridge/freezer to retain the properties of the essential fatty acids.

### Recipe Source:

<http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/trail-mix-260676>