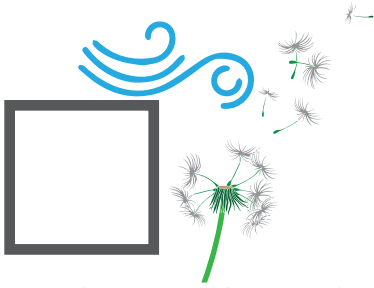
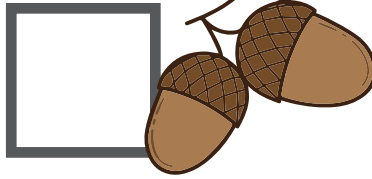


Seed Scavenger Hunt

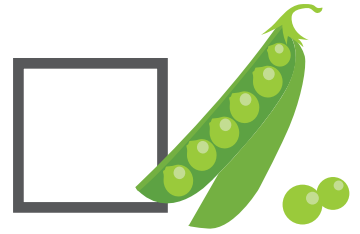
Find a seed that...



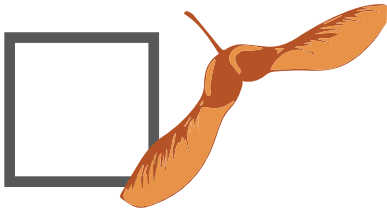
...is dispersed by wind.



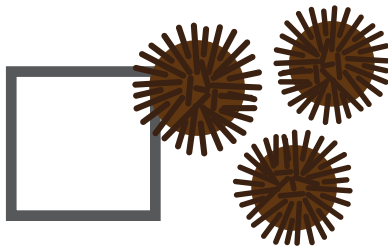
...has a cap.



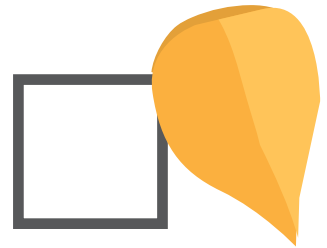
...is round.



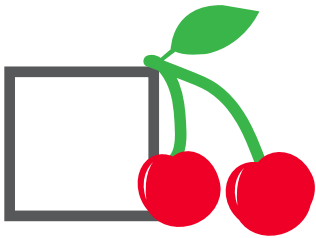
...has wings.



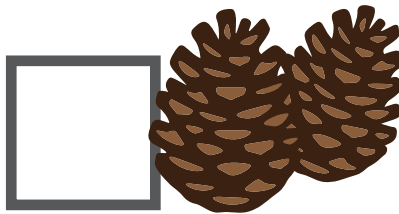
...attaches to your clothes.



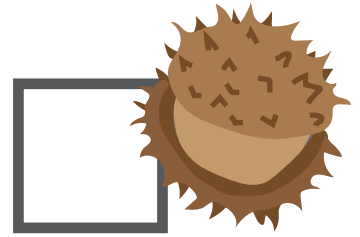
...has three sides.



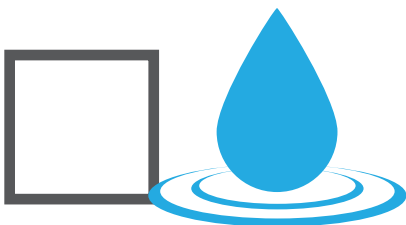
...is surrounded by a berry.



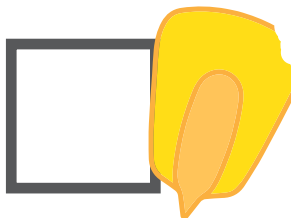
...is protected by the scales of a cone.



...is protected by spikes.



...is dispersed by water.



...has been nibbled on by an animal.



...has a sticky coat.





'Seed Bomb' Recipe

If you'd like to take your own seeds on an adventure and help give them a place to live, try this fun activity at home! There are lots of seeds looking for homes at the Seed Library, located in each of the Brock Public Library branches.

Materials for Making Seed Balls

- Recyclable paper
- Seeds
- Bowls
- Blender or food processor
- Strainer or colander

Some suggested pollinator-friendly seeds:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Alyssum | • Dill |
| • Aster | • Fennel |
| • Bachelor Buttons | • Oregano |
| • Basil | • Parsley |
| • Black-eyed Susan | • Poppy |
| • Columbine | • Snapdragons |
| • Cone Flower | • Viola |
| • Coreopsis | • Yarrow |
| • Daisy | |



Directions for Making Seed Balls

1. Tear up your paper into small pieces and place them into a large bin. The smaller the pieces, the better.
2. After you've placed all your torn paper in a bin, fill it with water to soak, enough to cover all the paper. Mix it around. Let it soak for 10 minutes.
3. Fill a blender or food processor with the soaked paper, about 1/3 of the way full. Fill the blender with water, about 1-2 inches above the paper.
4. Blend until you have mushy pulp, somewhat like the consistency of oatmeal. The more you blend it, the better it will hold together. **WARNING:** never let a child use a blender unless supervised by an adult.
5. Place a colander inside a bowl. Pour your pulp mixture into the colander. Continue with steps 3 & 4 until you have blended all your soaked paper. Slosh it around in the colander with your hand, draining the extra water. Don't squeeze all the water out! You'll want it to be wetter than you think. It helps to keep it from falling apart when making your shapes.
6. Pour the contents from the colander into a separate bowl.
7. Add seeds to your pulp. Mix them into the pulp with your hands.
8. To make seed balls (or pancakes) take a small handful of the mixture, squeeze out as much water as you can, and roll it into a firm ball. Optional: squish it like a pancake (it will dry faster). Place it on a drying rack or stack of newspaper to dry. Depending on the size of your seed balls, they can take up to 3 days to completely dry. Placing them in the sun on a hot day will speed up the process.
9. After your seed 'bombs' are dry, they're ready to be planted or given as a gift to a loved one!

Tip: You can add color to your seed balls by either using colored paper or adding food coloring to your mixture.



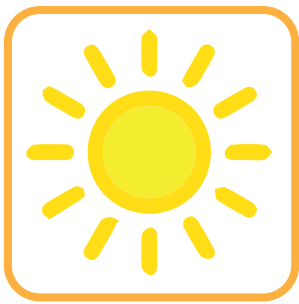
Seed Dispersal Activity

Look around you, we are surrounded by tree's, grass, and all sorts of living plants.

While we know how farmers plant their crops and gardeners plant their gardens.... Have you ever stopped to think about how wild plants and trees grow?

Seed Dispersal is how a "parent" plant is able to spread it's seeds around to ensure that it's baby" seeds continue the survival of the plant species.

Think of all the things a plant needs to grow:



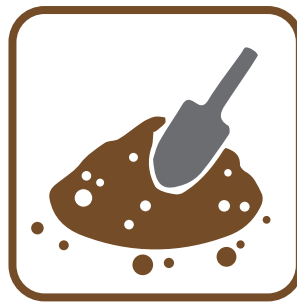
SUN



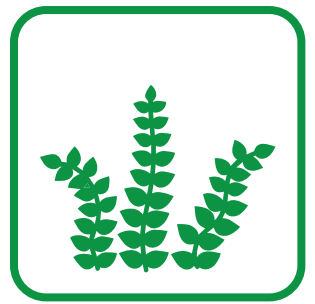
WATER



AIR



SOIL

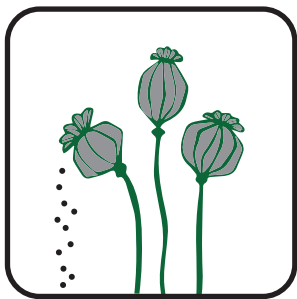


SPACE

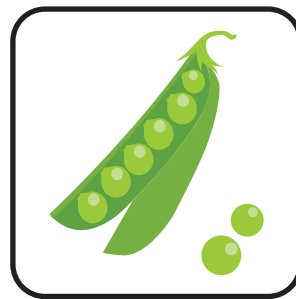
Plants that grow clumped tightly together compete for the same resources.

This is where Seed Dispersal comes in! Plants are creative about how and where they drop their seeds.

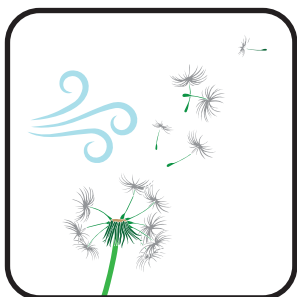
There are 5 ways (mechanisms) that plants use to "move" their seeds.



Gravity: Seeds are dropped right under the parent plant. This works for parent plants that do not come back year after year!



Mechanical: Some plants use tension to launch their seeds away from themselves. As the seeds grow inside the plants skin, tension builds up and finally the seeds explode!



Air: Seeds using this method of dispersal are light as air! They harness the power of the wind to be pulled far away from the parent plant.

Another way plants utilize air is to create enough movement in the parent plant to shake its seeds out. The wind blows flipping the parent plant around, shaking the baby seeds out onto the ground around it.



Animals: For parent plants that come back year after year, they need to send their seeds as far away as possible! Using Animals that live in their ecosystem is one way to do this. Seeds from these plants have barbs or a sticky coating that hook onto animals' fur and be transported away and removed when the animal grooms itself.

Another sneaky why these plants disperse their seeds are inside the animal's body! These seeds are covered by delicious food (fruits and berries). The animal eats the food, and once digested the animal poops the seeds out somewhere else. These seeds usually have a hard coating to protect them during digestion.



Water: Plants that grow around and, in the water, usually have seeds that can float! When seeds are ready to go, they drop into the water or are pulled into the water by the tide. They are carried away and washed up onto shore in another spot.

Activity: take some time to think about who you could give your baby seed its best start! Use a variety (provided) of materials to build the best dispersal method.