

Happy Summer!



Here are some suggestions for getting a great crop of sunflowers and sunflower seeds!

Would you like to have a higher percentage of your newly planted seeds germinate? – you can sprinkle red pepper / cayenne, chili powder, paprika, or any other very **spicy** reddish powders you may have in your cupboard that are a little outdated... even black pepper works. Some sunflower seeds will still be carried off by industrious rodents, but the **spicy stuff deters squirrels and other rodents** from eating all the seeds (they are yummy, after all!). **Please note, it's a good idea to do this *right* after sunflower seeds are planted in the earth.**

Staking – Sunflowers benefit greatly from stakes or sticks ... a big help to have in place / install them when plants are small ... When flower heads get heavy, you can then twisty tie the stem right to the stake that is already there. Or tie along a fence line. If you do tie them to stay up vertically, you will also get a ***better view of the birds that will visit*** them too!

By the way! Are you growing a vegetable garden? ... If you would like, plant your sunflowers there too - along the edges. Treat them the same way, with the cayenne or chili (etc.) on the soil, so seeds get a good start – and ***later in the season ... your squirrels and other garden visitors will tend to visit the sunflowers*** – for the rich protein & fat, sooner and more often than they visit your vegetables and fruits!

Plant a few sunflower seeds each week... if you like! You will then get a ***much longer period of bloom*** later on in ... August - September - October.

..... Enjoy!!!

Questions? Please e-mail: roberta_hayes@student.berkshirecc.edu

Sunflower Planting !

Observations, Experiments, Results, Plans!

It is fun, especially with young people, to see how long it takes different types of seeds to grow, in the various spots you may have chosen to plant them. Over the years, kids I have worked with in science classes have enjoyed keeping records, experimenting, writing dates sunflower seeds were planted, types, colors, and what pollinators visit the most!

June _____ Type of sunflower? _____

June _____ Type of sunflower? _____

June _____ Type of sunflower? _____

July _____ Type of sunflower? _____

July _____ Type of sunflower? _____

July _____ Type of sunflower? _____

August _____ Type of sunflower? _____

August _____ Type of sunflower? _____

August _____ Type of sunflower? _____

