

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of plant.  
There are around 60 different kinds of sunflowers.

1



## What happens during the first stage?

The seed is planted in soil or compost in spring. The seeds have a hard coat. They are black and white striped or just black. The seed begins to sprout roots after 1-2 weeks. This is called germination.

2



## What happens during the second stage?

A seedling grows and a few leaves appear on the stem. Roots grow underground.

3



## What happens during the third stage?

The plant grows taller and stronger, towards the sun. After 30 days, the bud forms. The flower head opens. After around 90 days, the sunflower will be fully-grown.

4



## What happens during the fourth stage?

The flower petals start to wilt and the plant dies. The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall. Some of the seeds settle in the ground and begin the new sunflower's life cycle.

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle Questions

1. What are sunflowers? Tick one.
  - a type of flowering plant
  - a type of tree
  - a season in the year
2. How many different types of sunflowers are there? Tick one.
  - 20
  - 40
  - 60
3. What is the seed planted in? Tick one.
  - water
  - soil or compost
  - milk
4. What grows underground? Tick one.
  - stem
  - shoots
  - roots
5. What does the sunflower grow towards? Tick one.
  - the sun
  - the moon
  - the clouds

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant originally from North America. There are around 60 different types of sunflower. They can be yellow, dark red and orange. Two types are the 'American Giant' and the 'Big Smile'.

1



## What happens during the first stage?

### Seed and Germinating Seed

During the first stage of the sunflower life cycle, the seed is planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer. The seeds have a hard coat, which helps protect the seed, that is black and white striped or just black. After 1-2 weeks, the seed begins to sprout roots.



2



## What happens during the second stage?

### Seedling and Shoot

During the second stage, a seedling grows above ground and a few leaves appear on the stem of the plant. Underground, roots continue to grow to keep the sunflower planted in the ground.



3



## What happens during the third stage?

### Bud and Bloom

During the third stage, the plant grows taller and stronger, facing towards the sun. After 30 days, the bud forms. Then, the flower head opens and after around 90 days, the sunflower will be fully-grown.



4



## What happens during the fourth stage?

### Wilt and Regrowth

At the end of the summer, the flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the life cycle, when the plant dies. The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground to begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle Questions

1. What colour can sunflowers be? Tick one.  
all colours  
only yellow  
yellow, dark red and orange
2. What are the names of two types of sunflowers? Tick one.  
tall and short  
American Giant and the Big Smile  
Seed and Germinating
3. Why is the sunflower seed planted in spring?
4. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'keep safe'.
5. Number the statements below from 1-4 to show the order that they happen in. The first one has been done for you.

	A seedling grows above ground and a few leaves appear on the stem of the plant.
	The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground to begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.
	After 30 days, the bud forms.
1	The seed is planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer.

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant, which originally came from North America. The sunflower is also the national flower of Ukraine. There are around 60 different species of sunflower. They can be yellow, dark red and orange. The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) and was grown by Hans Peter Schiffer in 2014 in Germany.

1



## What happens during the first stage?

During the first stage of the sunflower life cycle, the seed is planted in soil or compost during spring when it is warmer. The seeds often have a black and white striped or black, hard coat that helps to protect the seed. Next, the seed begins to germinate, about 1-2 weeks after planting. The plant starts to grow and a tiny root reaches out of the seed and down into the soil.

2



## What happens during the second stage?

During the second stage, a green stem starts to grow above ground. This is a seedling. Underground, roots also continue to grow, reaching down as deep as 2 metres, to keep the sunflower planted in the ground. A few leaves, known as shoots, appear on the stem of the plant as the stem gets harder and thicker, making it stronger.

3



## What happens during the third stage?

During the third stage, the plant grows taller and stronger, facing towards the sun. As the plant grows bigger, after about 30 days, a bud also forms and begins to unfold slowly as the flower head opens. After around 90 days from planting, the sunflower will be fully-grown and that is when you see the fully flowered, beautiful plant.

4



## What happens during the fourth stage?

At the end of the summer, the flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the sunflower life cycle, when the plant dies. Eventually, the flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground. A sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds! Some of the seeds settle in the ground and then begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle Questions

1. How high was the tallest sunflower on record in 2014? Tick one.

7.19 metres (23 feet 7 inches)

9.79 metres (32 feet 1 inch)

9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch)

2. Fill in the missing word.

Next, the seed begins to \_\_\_\_\_, about 1-2 weeks after planting.

3. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**. The first one has been done for you.

Sentence	True	False
The seed is planted in soil or compost during spring when it is warmer.	✓	
After around 30 days from planting, the sunflower will be fully-grown		
A few leaves, known as shoots, appear on the stem of the plant as the stem gets harder and thicker, making it stronger.		
A sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds!		

4. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a plant, leaf or flower that is limp'.

5. What does a sunflower seed look like?

6. Use the text to explain how a sunflower begins the new life cycle.