

SUNFLOWERS



INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the following questions about each sunflower variety you grow. When applicable, all measurements should be metric. Weight can be in lbs. as it's easily converted to grams or kilos.

CATALOG No/CROP NAME:

Date planted:

Date transplanted into garden
(if applicable):

No. seeds planted

No. germinated seeds (date):

Date of 1st germination:

Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade?
.....

Date of 1st flower:

continued

PHOTOGRAPHING SUNFLOWERS

Getting good photographs of plants in the field can be difficult. Mostly what we're looking for with sunflowers is some sense of the **overall height** of the plant, whether it's **single- or multi-branched**, the **size and color** of the flower heads and the **color of the seeds**. At right are several examples to help you best document each variety you grow. If you're growing more than one sunflower variety, be sure to label each photograph with the catalog name and number. If you're only growing one variety, it's still a good idea, but less critical. A ruler helps give scale to your photograph and is an important feature for NS/S. If possible, be sure to include **something for scale** in each photograph—a yard/meter stick, shovel, person, etc. for whole plants; a ruler, business card, etc. for close-ups.

Multi-branched varieties produce more than one seed head per main stalk (**1**). Single-stalked varieties produce only one large head per main stalk, but can produce much smaller auxiliary heads. Include photographs of the **leaf, overall height, a close-up of a head** or heads and the **seeds**.

SAMPLE PHOTOS



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Date of 50% flowering:
Date 1st fruit produced:
Date of 1st harvest:
Date of last harvest:

Total weight of seeds or number of heads produced (approx.):

Were most plants single stalked or branched or both?

.....

How tall was the plant at maturity?

What color were the “petals”?

.....

What color was the “center” of the sunflower head (yellow, brownish)?

.....

What color were the seeds (solid, striped, mixed, etc.)?

If mixed, was only one color type produced per head (i.e., were black seeds and striped seeds produced on the same head)?

Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost, etc.)? When? How did they fare?

Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work?

Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

QUESTION KEY

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Date planted: the date you sowed the seeds, either directly into the ground or in a seedling tray.

Date transplanted into garden: the date you transplanted the seedlings into the garden.

Date of 1st germination: the date you noticed the first seedling emerge (either from the ground or in a seedling tray; if a seedling tray, be sure to let us know how/where you started the plants).

Total number of germinated seeds (date): when you decide that no more plants are likely to germinate; be sure to count how many seeds you plant!

Date of 50% flowering: the date when 50% of the number of plants are in flower, even if they only have one flower each!

Date of 1st/last harvest: this may depend on how you harvest sunflower heads; if you wait to harvest mature fruit all at once at the end of the season, simply record that date; if you harvest periodically, just record the dates of your first and last harvests.

Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season: Try to record the number of heads produced (from which you got seed). If you removed the seeds from the heads, just weigh the seeds, if possible. If you don't have a scale, try measuring the number of cups of seed produced.

Were most plants single stalked, branched or both? Our sunflower varieties tend to be either single-stalked or branched. Some varieties may be mixed and contain both types. For branched varieties, we don't need to know the number of branches, just

whether it is branched or single-stalked. For mixes, use the predominant form, but indicate whether it had both single-stalked and branched individuals.

How tall was the plant at maturity? Try to measure from the ground to the average highest point on the plot; a metric ruler (cm) is best, but use whatever you have.

What color were the “petals”? What color was the outer-most ring of “petals” (technically, these are ray florets).

What color was the “center” of the sunflower head (yellow, brownish)? The “center” (technically referred to as disk florets) is often a different general color than the outer “petals”. Did it have an overall “brownish” look compared to the yellow petals or was it also yellow?

What color were the seeds (solid, striped, mixed, etc.)?

Sunflower seeds can be solid black, black/white striped, black/gray striped, etc.

If mixed, was only one color type produced per head (i.e., were black seeds and striped seeds produced on the same head)? This must be recorded **before** removing seeds from the heads. **A photo of the head** would be greatly appreciated!