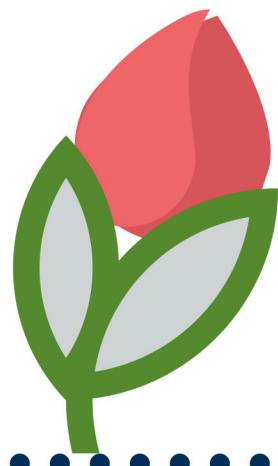


# AgBud



A series of horticulture insights

## Did you know?

The head of a sunflower consists of 1,000 to 2,000 tiny flowers joined together by a base.

## Overview

- Sunflowers are an annual plant that has a rough hairy stem that grows in a variety of sizes, heights and colors.
- They prefer at least six hours of direct sunlight and follow the sun from sunrise to sunset (heliotropism).
- If they don't receive efficient pollen, they can self-pollinate by the stigma twisting around to reach its own pollen. When self-pollination happens the new flower will be identical to the original flower.

## Production

1.29 million acres of sunflowers were produced in 2021 in the United States

There are two types of seed production:  
1) Oilseed and  
2) Non-oilseed. About 90% of the US production is oilseed.

Sunflowers are sources for a variety of goods including food, birdseed, livestock feed, industrial uses, and cut flowers/florists.

# Sunflower

**Kingdom:** *Plantae*

**Family:** *Asteraceae*

**Genus:** *Helianthus*

**Species:** *Approx. 70 species*

## History

- Sunflowers were developed by Native Americans as source food.
- It is believed that this flower has been domesticated in the U.S. from a wild sunflower around 1000 B.C.
- The tallest sunflower was grown in Germany in 2014 measuring 30 ft 1 in.
- Sunflowers began as an agronomic crop in the U.S. in the 1950's, and they are harvested present day around the world.

Sources: [extension.missouri.edu](http://extension.missouri.edu), [proflowers.com](http://proflowers.com), [britannica.com](http://britannica.com), [agmrc.org](http://agmrc.org)

## Sunflower Anatomy

