

Common Sunflower

Helianthus annuus

Right: bi-color ray flowers of 'Prado Red'



Left: mature disc flowers of 'Semi-Dwarf'

Common Sunflower

Helianthus annuus

Family: Asteraceae

Stem & Leaf Type: annual

Size: 2-15' tall; 1-3' wide

USDA Hardiness Zones: Annual

Leaves: coarse leaves with cordate bases

Leaf Color: medium green

Fall Color: none

Flowers: June-August

Fruit: black or black/white striped seeds

Light: full sun

Moisture: well-drained—moist

Insect/Disease Issues: host plant for a few butterflies, leaf spot, powdery mildew

Nativity: North America, Cultivated

Location in the Gardens: Children's Garden

Culture & Landscape Value:

Plant seeds directly into the ground after the final frost date. Taller varieties should be sheltered from strong winds. Seeds are enjoyed by local bird populations and can be collected for use the following year.

Notes:

Native to the United States

Ray flowers come in bright and pastel shades of yellow, red, bronze, white, and bicolor. Disc flowers can be brown, purple, or yellow.

The tallest sunflower ever grown was 25' tall and 32" in diameter. In general, solid black seeds are used for oil and striped seeds are used for snacks.



Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec