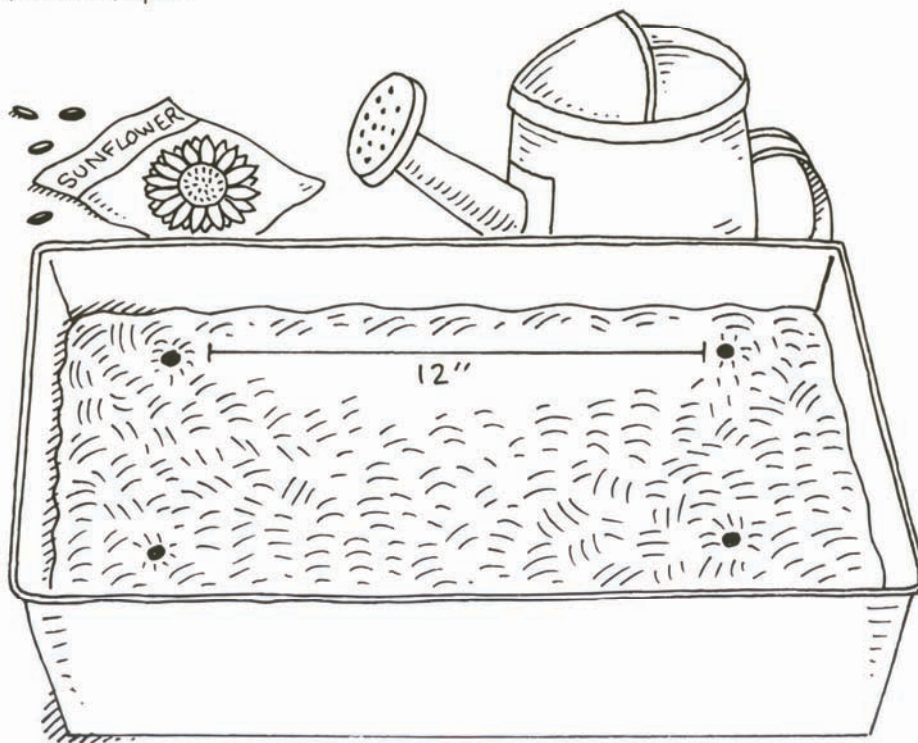


GROW YOUR OWN SUNFLOWERS

Sunflower plants are not hard to grow. There are many varieties to choose from, some as small as 2' (61 cm) tall, and others that reach 8–10' (2.4–3.0 m). The most common varieties are yellow, but some sunflowers are orange or burgundy. Sunflowers can grow in almost any type of soil, and they are fairly drought resistant. They should be watered thoroughly once a week, especially during the first month. In North America and Europe, the best time to plant sunflowers is between March and September. In Asia, sunflowers grow best between February and November, and in Africa, sunflowers should be planted between November and May.

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Share the book *Sunflower* with your students to help them anticipate what will happen when they grow their own plants.
- 2 Fill a large planter box with soil, or have students loosen the soil of a small plot of land using gardening tools.
- 3 Water the soil until it is very moist.
- 4 Plant the seeds in a sunny location 1" (2.5 cm) deep and about 12" (30.5 cm) apart.



MATERIALS

- ◆ Sunflower
- ◆ large planter box or small plot of land
- ◆ soil
- ◆ gardening trowels or small shovels
- ◆ water
- ◆ sunflower seeds (from a nursery)
- ◆ large graph paper
- ◆ ruler
- ◆ salt water (optional)
- ◆ baking sheet (optional)
- ◆ oven (optional)