

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

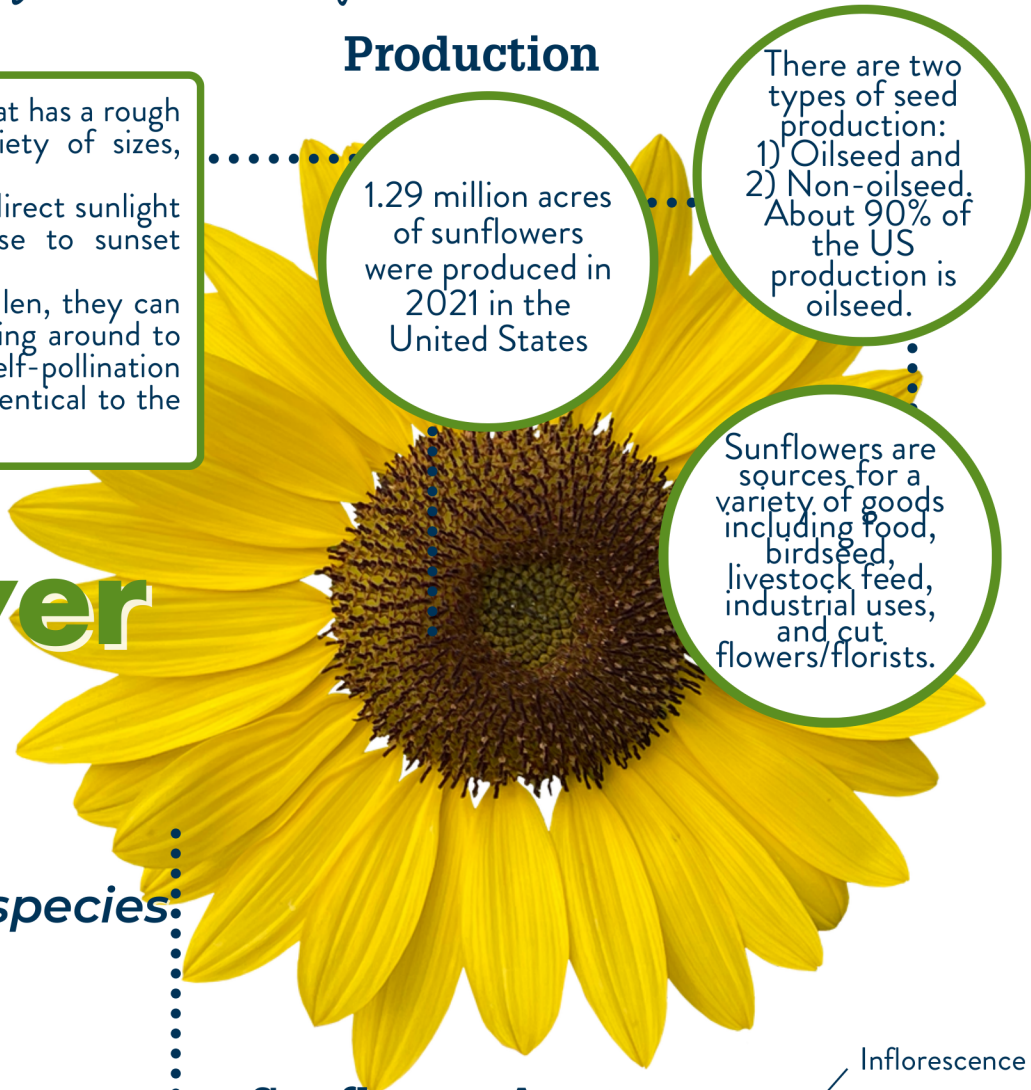
Genus: Helianthus

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, proflowers.com, britannica.com, agmrc.org



Sunflower Anatomy

