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Instructions for Planting Your Mammoth Sunflower Seed

Step 1: Place the soil pellet in a 1 to 2-inch dish. Cover the pellet with water. Add more water when needed until the pellet is fully moist.

Step 2: Place the moist pellet into the plant pot. Make sure the open end of the pellet is on top.

Step 3: Place one seed in the pellet and push it down slightly so the soil covers the seed.

Step 4: Put the plant pot into a container where just enough water can be added to the bottom to keep the soil pellet moist but not soaking wet. As seed germinates, when top of soil is dry, sprinkle with water until moist.

It is helpful to use a piece of plastic wrap over the container to retain moisture. Place the plastic wrap very loosely on top of the container. Do not seal edges. Place the container in a location that stays between 65 -75 °F. A sunny window sill can work, or use a grow light. At 65 -75 °F and moist conditions the seed will germinate in approximately 14 days. Because the Mammoth Sunflower grows so large, they can be grown in these pellets only until the roots of the seedling start to show on the side of the soil pellet. The seedling then can be planted outside in the garden after all danger of frost has passed.

Fun Facts About the Seed & Packet

Mammoth is an amazing giant heirloom sunflower with enormous blooms, up to 1 foot across. The large yellow



flowers with brown centers top plants 9 - 12 feet tall and yield heavy loads of seeds. Fast and easy to grow, Mammoth sunflowers are great for creating a sun forest, a tall hedge or screen. Edible seeds attract birds and make great snacks. To save seeds, cut the stem beneath flower heads when the backs of the flower heads turn yellow. Hang upside down and let dry in a cool, dry place for about a month. Cover with netting or a paper sack with holes to keep seeds from falling. Watch out for squirrels! They love sunflower seeds. The Mammoth Sunflower seed in this kit is certified organic.



Note: The Massachusetts Flower Growers Association and Massachusetts Department Agricultural Resources provided the soil pellets, Burpee® Mammoth Sunflower Seeds (certified organic) and plant pots to our library at no cost. Their goal is to show children the science and wonder of horticulture.

If you enjoyed this activity, please consider having you child write a thank you note to:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway St #500
Boston, MA 02114

Please note in your correspondence that Royalton Memorial Library provided the sunflower kit.



