

How Plants Reproduce

Plants have many ways to reproduce (make new life). Young plants get started from:



Seeds



Cones



Spores



Bulbs

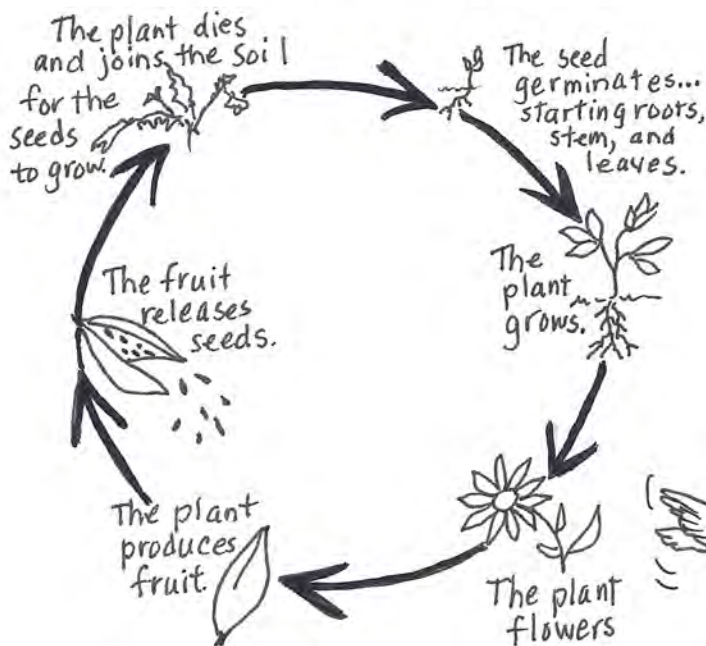
Fruits have **seeds** inside to start new life. A seed gets into the soil. Then rain dampens the soil so that the seed can go deeper for protection from creatures that eat seeds. The water in the soil soaks into the seed and softens it. The seed swells to start a new stage. It **germinates** (starts a root, stem & leaves). The plant produces **flowers** which mature into fruit. Some plants have beans or nuts that act like seeds.

Conifers are plants that produce **cones**. They have thin leaves called needles. Cones have seeds or nuts inside just like fruit. Birds open the cones to get to the seeds. Fire can also open cones. A few seeds escape into the soil. Red Cedar, Bald Cypress and Pine are a few of Florida's native trees.

Mushrooms, ferns and moss reproduce by making tiny **spores**. Spores can germinate like seeds. This plant group has complicated reproduction ways. Florida's Spanish Moss is misnamed because it is not really a moss. It is a flowering plant with tiny flowers.

Onions, daffodils and tulips produce storage sacks called **bulbs** that can be planted in soil to make new plants. Other plants like potatoes create buds that act like bulbs. If you plant a potato with buds, it grows into lots of new potatoes. Sweet potatoes can reproduce by growing tubers from their roots. Tubers act like long bulbs.

Flowering Plant Life Cycle



Unscramble the letters to form words

Hints are highlighted in the above squares

minegtraes _____

lubbs _____

ressop _____

tuirfs _____

wersolf _____

senco _____

deses _____



Why do I hum humm hm hmm?
I don't know the words!

FACT: I make that humming with my fast moving wings!