**The Great Sunflower Project**

*Thank you for participating in our special virtual event and in this wonderful Citizen Science project.*

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**Instructions for ‘Lemon Queen’ Sunflowers**

Sunflowers are easy and rewarding to grow. Keep soil moist and well weeded. Protect young seedlings from hungry birds with netting or plastic berry baskets, removing before plants get crowded. Sunflowers need room, so when young seedlings are 3 inches tall, be sure to thin them to stand 12 inches apart.

To plant sunflowers outdoors in the garden:

* When all danger of frost has passed (May 15 in Bucks County), and night temperatures are in the 50’s, poke seeds into well worked soil ½ inch deep and 4-5 inches apart.
* Press soil firmly over seeds and keep moist. Germination takes 8-10 days.
* When seedlings are several inches tall thin them to stand 12 inches apart so they have room to grow.

To start sunflowers indoors: (Seeds are provided)

* Use peat pots or other biodegradable pots that you can plant directly in the ground.
* Several weeks before the last frost date (May 15 in Bucks County) sow seeds ½ inch deep in individual pots of well drained potting mix.
* Keep moist but not soggy and provide a strong light source- a sunny window will do.
* Transplant to a garden or container when the plants are large enough to handle easily (several inches) and the chance of frost has passed. They will grow 6 feet tall.

To grow sunflowers in containers – plant as above and thin to no more than 1 plant per 8-inch container or 3 plants per pot that is 15 inches in diameter and 12-18 inches deep.

