

Now that summer is over, what do the plants in your bed look like? Are there any flowers left? Probably not!

Even though it might look like not much is happening, there are lots of tiny, baby plants in your CBS bed and yard waiting for next spring – and we call these baby plants **seeds**!

That’s right, a seed is just a baby plant waiting to germinate (sprout). In most plants, seeds are found inside of **fruits**.

If you have any Partridge Pea in your bed, look for its fruits (see photo below). Open the fruit to find the seeds. What other types of seeds can you find in your yard? You may have some dandelion seeds, milkweed seeds, *Coreopsis* seeds, even grass seeds! Seeds come in all shapes and sizes; see how much diversity you can find!



(1) Partridge Pea fruit, (2) Partridge Pea seeds, (3) Smooth Blue Aster seeds, (4) *Coreopsis lanceolata* dried inflorescence and seeds, (5) Common Milkweed fruit and seeds

Seed Racing

Many seeds simply fall to the ground when they are ripe. But some seeds have “attachments” that help them travel farther from their mom (the plant that made the seeds). Traveling, or “**dispersing**,” can help seeds by letting them land in new places that are not crowded with lots of other seeds. You can see how this works by doing the activity below:

1. See if you can find some milkweed seeds (see photo above). These seeds have a fluffy attachment (called a **pappus**) that helps them “parachute” in the wind.
2. Also find another type of seed, like a sunflower or Partridge Pea, or really any kind.
3. Lay a milkweed seed (with pappus attached) on your palm, and then give it one good blow, like you’re blowing out birthday candles.
4. Measure how far the milkweed seed travels (how many feet from where you were standing?)
5. Now put the other type of seed in your palm and blow again. How far from you does that seed travel? Compare to the milkweed seed!