

## Plants Grow Children

Dear Parents:

Today your child learned about seeds and what plants need to grow in a special class taught by our volunteer Master Gardeners. Each child had the chance to plant some seeds in her or his own **Mini-Greenhouse**. We hope you'll share with your child the wonder and joy of watching plants grow. Maybe later both of you can plant the plants outdoors in the garden or in larger pots!

The class was taught by WSU Extension Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners are volunteers who receive over 50 hours of formal training on a variety of gardening topics. In return for their training, the volunteers agree to return 50 hours of volunteer service to Extension. They return this service in a variety of ways, such as teaching our special plants classes in local schools, or answering gardening questions over the phone in the Extension office and in local plant clinics.

Master Gardeners provide free advice and answers to plant and garden problems. If you have a gardening question or want to know more about the WSU Extension 4-H Youth Program, contact your local county WSU Extension office.

Sincerely,

*Benton-Franklin Washington State University Extension  
&  
The Benton & Franklin WSU Master Gardeners*



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### SUNFLOWER

**Planting:** Plant in average soil after danger of frost. In rows 2½ to 3 feet apart, plant seeds 6 to 12 inches apart in rows and cover with ½ inch of fine soil. Firm lightly. Plants emerge in 7 to 14 days depending on soil and weather conditions.

**Thin:** Thin seedlings to stand 12 to 18 inches apart when plants are 2 to 3 inches high.

**Garden Hints:** Plant so that they do not shade other plants in your garden. Cultivate or mulch to keep weed-free. Grow sunflowers among corn plants to save garden space.

### TOMATO - Red Robin Cherry Tomato

**Planting:** Plant indoors 7 weeks before frost free weather. Plant seed 1/4 inch deep in a flat or peat pots filled with a commercial soil mixture available at your local garden center.

**After Planting:** Firm the soil over the seeds and keep moist until seedlings appear. Thereafter, grow with as much light as possible and water as needed.

**Transplanting:** Before transplanting outdoors, seedlings should be conditioned or "hardened off". This should be started about 2 weeks before final planting. During the day move seedlings outdoors in partial shade and bring them indoors at night. Each day gradually expose plants to more direct sunlight. Check plants for water daily. Finally, transplant to their permanent garden spot 36 in. apart in rows 48 inches apart.

**Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, USDA, and Benton County. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.**