Further Reading

# Topic Reproduction in Plants

**Wind:** seeds have physical traits that allow the seed to easily be picked up by the wind and carried by wind. Seeds from plants like dandelions, swan plants and cottonwood trees are light and have feathery bristles and can be carried long distances before they rest on land where they germinate and grow. The seeds are designed to be lightweight or have structures that enable them to be carried by wind.

**Water:** The seeds float away from the parent plant. Mangrove trees, which produce long, narrow fruits that are able to survive up to a year floating on the water. Seeds travel via rivers, streams, or oceans. These seeds typically have characteristics that enable them to float so that they can be carried away by water to another place.

**Animals:** Plants purposely produce tasty nuts, fruits, and seeds to attract animals that will disperse their seeds. It's estimated that squirrels forget where they bury seed-containing fruits for later use; if the squirrel does not find its stash of fruit, and if conditions are favorable, the seeds germinate. Many other animals disperse seeds after eating fleshy fruits such as tomatoes. The seeds pass through the digestive system of animals and are excreted in their droppings some distance away.

Seeds are also dispersed by clinging to the hair, skin, fur, or feathers of various animals. For example, the hooked appendages of common burdock allow the Self-dispersal

- **Gravity:** Some plants simply drop their seeds. These plants rely on gravity to disperse their seeds.

- **Explosion -** the plants explode the housing of the seeds and disperses it at a distance away from the plant. For example; bean plant. plants produce their seeds in pods and capsules. As the seed matures in the fruit, the pod swells. In nurseries and greenhouses, the oxalis plant is known to hop from pot to pot using this bursting method. This type of dispersal is called ballistic, because the seeds are like projectiles.