
Big Seed/Little Seed

Broad Question

How do seed weight, seed set, seed survival interrelate? What seed production strategy maximizes survival into the next generation?

Background

All living organisms want to maximize the number of their offspring that survive to the next generation. In the case of plants, this means getting as many seeds as possible to germinate, grow and set their own seed.

Do plants have more success by producing fewer, larger seeds (each of which has a better chance of survival) or more, smaller seeds? Is there a correlation between seed set (number of seeds produced and seed size? Is survival, then, related to seed size?

Activity Description

Activity #1

Determine seed set and seed weight using Big Seed/Little Seed Data Sheet.

Activity #2

Ask questions about seed set and size. Come up with a hypothesis. Then set up an experiment to test your hypothesis.

More Questions

- • What other factors might determine how many seeds a plant can produce?
 - • annual versus perennial
 - • growing conditions for year
 - • competition
- • What would be some advantages of producing a big seed?
Small seed?
- • What would be some disadvantages of producing a big seed?

(cont.)

TITLE

Seed
Set

Seed Weight