

# Seed story

Seeds come in all shapes and sizes. Some are as big as footballs. Others are so small that millions can fit inside a matchbox. When the seeds are ready, they leave the parent plant and begin a new life on their own. Some seeds drop to the ground, but more often they scatter far and wide.



## Flyaway seeds

If you blow hard on a dandelion's seeds, they fly away. Each seed has a tiny parachute to help it float in the air. This helps the wind blow them a very long way, so they can take root on a new patch of ground.

Dandelion flower

The baby pick-a-back plant grows out from where the stalk joins the leaf.



## No seeds

Some plants don't produce seeds. The baby pick-a-back plant grows from the leaf of the parent plant. When the parent plant bends over and touches the ground, the baby plant takes root.



Seed head

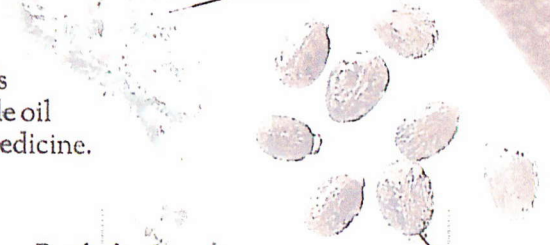
Flowers wither and drop off when seeds form.



## Handle with care

Castor oil seeds contain a deadly poison. But when they are crushed, the seeds produce a valuable oil that is used as a medicine.

Seeds grow inside a spiny case.



Castor oil seeds

Burdock seed head



## Taken for a ride

If you go for a walk in the country, seeds often stick to your clothes. This is how burdock seeds spread—by "hitching a ride" with passing animals and people.

## Fire lovers

Banksias grow in the dry bush of Australia. Their hard, wooden seedpods stay tightly shut until a fire sweeps through the bush. When the fire is over, the seedpods open up, and the seeds drop onto the ground.

Hard pod containing a seed

