

Seed Dispersal Methods

Floats on Air: The seed will seem to float in the air for long periods of time.

Examples: milkweed, dandelion, cottonwood

Flies through the Air: The seed is blown by the wind and moves faster than a seed floating on air.

Examples: maple, ash, tulip poplar

Floats on Water: The seed will float on water for long periods of time, and possibly over long distances.

Examples: mangrove, coconut, cranberry

Bounces or Rolls: The seed is usually hard and falls from high places (tall trees). Once the seed hits the ground, it will roll or seem to bounce short distances.

Examples: acorn, pecan, walnut

Eaten by Animals: The seed is usually attractive to animals as food, and is often nutritious or provides energy for the animal.

Examples: cherry, apple, raspberries

Stored by Animals: The seed is stored by animals for food at a later time. Before the seed is dug-up and eaten, it sprouts into a plant.

Examples: acorns, hickory, beech

Thrown: The seed is actually thrown from the vicinity of the plant in order to ensure enough growing space for the seed and the parent plant.

Examples: locust, violet, witch hazel, jewelweed

Sticks to Animals: The seed has any one of several methods of sticking to fur or feet of animals. When the animal moves or migrates to new areas, the seed is carried along; thus ensuring the seed will have a new place to grow without competing with its parent plant.

Examples: cocklebur, wild barley, goldenrod, foxtail