



Winter Seedheads - Activity 9: Urban Seedheads

Not all students have access to a large green space. Try exploring a local garden to find some urban seedheads!

Goals

- Understand what a seedhead is
- Identify different seedheads
- Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity

Material

- Biodiversity sheet

Activity

Not every student will have access to a large green space. Fortunately, seedheads can be found not only in big conservation areas, but also in urban settings, too. In this activity, encourage students to take a walk through their neighbourhoods and see what seedheads they can find! There will likely be more than they expect in the gardens around them!

Because gardens will feature cultivated plants and seedheads, they may encounter some that are not found on the biodiversity sheet. In order for students to figure out what is a seedhead, have a discussion on what a seed head is.

Flower seedheads are defined as a flowerhead in seed. This is the dried-up flowering or fruiting part of the plant that contains mature seeds. Depending on the plant, they can be pretty diverse and have different methods of seed dispersal! Flower seedheads usually start out green, yellow, red, or orange but turn brown as they dry and mature. If a student is unsure if something is a seedhead, encourage them to ask themselves, was this a flower earlier in the year? Why is the dried stalk still standing in the winter? Are animals interested in it? Does it resemble anything in the biodiversity sheet even if it doesn't match perfectly? If you give it a gentle shake, do seeds come out?

Have students compile a list of seedheads they found in their neighborhoods. If they are unsure what type of plant it is, have them draw a picture or take notes on what it looked like instead. For older students, they can research to find out what the plant is if it's not on their biodiversity sheet.

