

Sunflowers for Opac Seeds and Plants



This is a sunflower seedling – just 4 leaves.

Sunflowers, like all flowers, start out small, just two leaves and then two more, and then they need lots of sun and lots of rain to grow more leaves and straight and sturdy stalks. Sunflowers are planted an inch or two in the soil. In Opac there is only enough water for people to drink and cook with and wash with. The rain is the only water the sunflowers get. If it doesn't rain, the sunflowers do not grow. But when it does, they grow big and beautiful.



She is Mommy's little helper.

Sunflowers also need space to grow. Any plant that isn't a sunflower is in the way; it is a weed. People get out the hoes again when the sunflowers are small and chop out the weeds that sprouted among the plants. Like little children everywhere, children in Opac like to pretend to be grown up. They pretend to be teachers and cooks and sunflower farmers.



A family in their sunflower field



A field of sunflowers

Soon the sunflowers grow so big that no weeds can grow in the field. They grow and grow. And everywhere you look, there are only sunflowers.

The sunflowers and their ripening seeds need to be protected from the birds who love to eat the seeds. This is how the people of Opac make their scarecrows. They make “scarestrings” instead. The women and children stretch strings over the field and tie strips cut from plastic bags to the strings. The wind makes the strips of plastic rustle and keeps the birds from eating the seeds.

Have you ever seen a field so full of plants you couldn't see the ground? Have you ever seen a scarecrow in a field?

Dear God,

We thank you, God. We thank you for seeds that grow, for sunny days and for the rain that brings water for plants and for people. Amen.

You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it. *Psalm 65:9*

