

Sunflower Peredovik

Key Features

Sunflowers have big, daisy-like flower faces of bright yellow petals (occasionally red) and brown centers that ripen into heavy heads filled with seeds. Sunflowers are heliotropic, which means that they turn their flowers to follow the movement of the Sun across the sky.

Tall and coarse, the plants have creeping or tuberous roots and large, bristly leaves. Some sunflowers grow to over 16 feet in height, but the Peredovik variety grows between 2 and 5 feet tall. Most sunflowers are remarkably tough and easy to grow as long as the soil is not waterlogged. Most are heat and drought-tolerant. They make excellent cut flowers and are attractive to bees and birds.

Application

Cover Crop
Pollinator

Planting Time

Spring

Establishment

Sunflowers grow best in locations with direct sunlight and require long, hot summers to flower well. With a long tap root that needs to stretch out, the soil would ideally be loose and well drained. Sunflowers are heavy feeders, so the soil should be nutrient-rich with organic matter.

Plant after the danger of a spring frost has passed. Give your plants plenty of room to spread out. Rows should be 30 inches wide and plants should be about 6 inches apart. It takes about 110 days for seed to mature from germination.

Management Keys

Sunflowers work well as a full season crop in rotation with corn, soybeans and/or sorghum. One real advantage of the sunflower is that its vigorous growth and robust size make it very competitive with most weeds as long as the weeds are not allowed to get a head start.



Seeding Rate

Drilled	8-9#
Precision Planting	6-8#
In Cover Crop Mix	2-5#

Seeding Depth

1"

Characteristics

Nutrient Scavenging	3
Nutrient Release Rate	1
Compaction	3
Soil Builder	4

Scale 1-5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent)

