How To Grow Giant Sunflowers

Now is the time to start planting sunflowers. Learn the secret of growing sunflowers to record-breaking sizes and heights from Dr. Tom Heaton, the world's foremost sunflower breeder and Renee's Garden's sunflower seed supplier.

Tom has been breeding sunflowers for 30 years and has revolutionized the market by introducing a dazzling array of new sunflower forms and colors to the seed trade.

His wholesale seed production company specializes in long-stemmed pollenless cultivars for the cut flower market and home garden. He has developed varieties in a full spectrum from burgundy and ruby red to orange, peach, apricot, bright yellow, to fiery bicolors. Most of Renee's Garden sunflower varieties are from his exuberant collection.

May In The Trial Garden

What a difference a month makes! The bed of lettuce seedlings that we thinned to their final spacing of 8-10 inches just 1 month ago have all matured into full, voluptuous heads of crispy, sweet lettuce. This just goes to show how important proper thinning is!

Our "monogerm" beets come from a favorite seed breeder in the Czech Republic. Beet seeds are technically a fruit that contains 3-5 seeds, which is why they germinate in little clusters. "Monogerm" means that they are a single seed, so when they germinate, only 1 seedling comes up. This makes thinning much easier.

We are beginning to harvest heads of white cauliflower from our early spring sown crops. This is a prime example of why we conduct our own trials to try to find the very best varieties. From the picture, you see the difference in size and the big one is also the most delicious eating! We are also just starting several new heat tolerant varieties, just received from one of our Japanese seed vendors. This is great news for gardeners in hot climates who love cauliflower (usually a cool season vegetable).

Recipe Of The Month

Baby Kale and Nectarine Salad
Take advantage of late spring's bounty. Baby Kale leaves are milder in texture and flavor than their mature counterpart.