## Plant It PK Lets get growing!

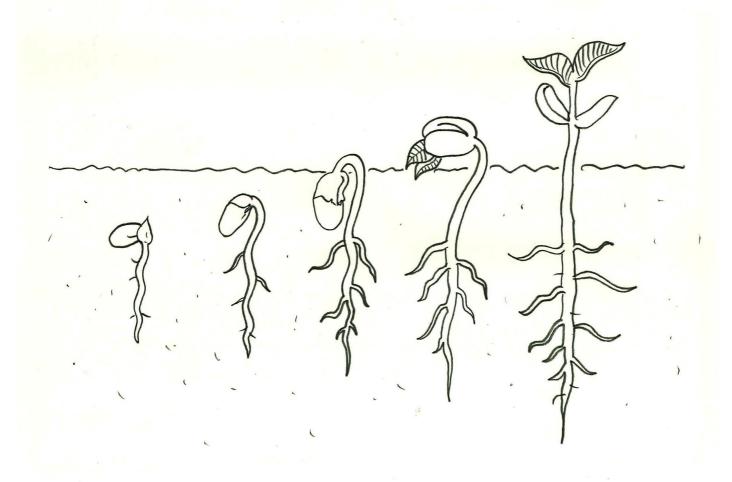


## What is germination?

Germination is the process by which a plant begins to grow from a seed. Roots form under the soil, whilst the stem, leaves and flower emerge above the soil.

Pollen produced by a flower is carried by insects or blown by the wind to another flower. This process is called pollination. When the pollen reaches another flower, it travels to the ovary where it fertilises the egg cells to make seeds. This process is called fertilisation.

These seeds are scattered by animals or the wind. This process is called dispersal. Some of the seeds will then grow into new plants.



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## What is an ecosystem?

An ecosystem consists of living things working together in their surroundings. It needs water, soil, plants and animals. If you take one thing away, they will not work as well.

Bees are one of our main pollinators, but wasps, moths and butterflies are also pollinators. There are around 70 crops in the UK that rely on or benefit from these insects.

The plants we grow in our gardens can encourage a variety of insects which then encourages other wildlife into that area. Encouraging insects to your garden will provide food sources for native birds and bats.

The health of our natural ecosystems is linked to the health of our pollinators.



Photo by Maeve Cushla