

Nuts About Nature

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SEEDS ON THE MOVE

Source: www.dnr.state.il.us



The **seed** is a very important part of a tree. It is a tiny **blueprint** of a tree to come - a source of beginning for a new tree. Yet, do tree seeds just fall to the ground and stay there? No. They could not **survive** that

way. Since trees cannot move, they must rely on nature to help transport their seeds to other places. How is this done?

SEED TRANSPORTERS:

Wind - some seeds are simply blown in the wind to new locations.

Water - seeds drop or blow into the water and are carried and planted downstream.

Carriers - furry animals like dogs, foxes or raccoon carry some sticky seeds to new places.

Flying Seeds - Birds carry



seeds when they pick fruit from trees, fly away to eat it and drop the seeds.

Animal Planters - Squirrels bury so many nuts that they don't remember where they are, so some of them become new trees.

People - Many people plant trees at home and in their work. If you've ever left a pine cone in a new place, you may have planted a tree.

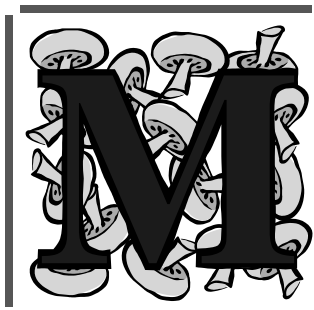
Can you believe.....A single seed the size of a lady bug produced the largest living organism in the world.

This **organism** is a giant sequoia named General Sherman and is 275 feet tall, 36 feet in diameter, 83 feet in circumference and 3,800 years old!!!



IT'S NATURE THAT CLEANS UP ITS ROOM!

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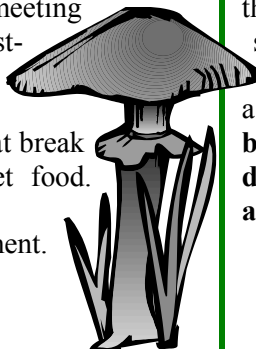


FUNGI - (Mushrooms, toadstool, molds, mildew & yeast) Some say these peculiar forms in nature are magicalSome have said they are

the homes of fairies, the meeting place of leprechauns or resting places for passing trolls. In fact, fungi are nature's recyclers - **decomposers** that break down plant material to get food. They work as part of **nature's sanitation** department. Without them we would be surrounded by piles of dead material and disease.

More fungi facts:

- *they have no true plant body
- *they have no roots, stems or leaves
- *they have no chlorophyll, so they cannot make food
- *many live in the dark



*they can kill live plants

You may have noticed that after a heavy rain your yard **magically** erupts with **umbrella-shaped** objects. You may also have seen them on or around **trees**. These are mushrooms, and they belong to the fungi family. There are many shapes, sizes and colors of mushrooms. Explore mushrooms up close and personal with a hand lens (magnifying glass). **Remember some mushrooms are poisonous - do not eat any mushrooms without adult supervision!!**

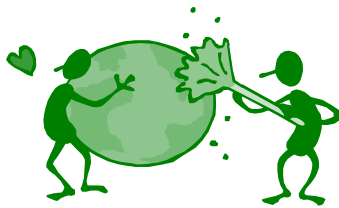


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Compliments of the
Fayette County SWCD

WORD FIND

On the front page of this newsletter there are twenty, green bold words. Search for those words in our Conservation Word Find at the right.



S	S	T	T	W	D	Y	S	D	S	H	U	Z	U	U	N	H	P
R	U	V	W	R	L	J	E	E	G	U	W	V	E	K	M	I	D
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G	N	I	Y	L	F	O	J	C	N	R	D	E	D	K	S	M	I

Below are pictures of six tree seeds and six tree planters. Draw a line from each seed to the most likely planter.

