



IN A SPIN

What have we learnt?

Plants spread their seeds in a number of ways to enable their seedlings to grow.

Sycamore seeds are wing-shaped so they spin as they fall and are carried in the air away from the parent plant.

Why is this important?

Being able to spread their seeds by the wind allows new trees to germinate far from the parent plant. This is important so there is less competition between plants for space and light, which they need to grow well.

FUN FACTS

- Seeds can be spread by 'mechanical' means:
 - Gravity (falling) and/or by the wind
 - Force ('fired' out from plant)
 - Floating away on water
- Or by 'zoological' means (by animals):
 - Fruits containing seeds are eaten, digested and excreted
 - Seeds are carried on animal fur



sycamore seed image: lofaesofa / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)

Something to try:

- Could you go on a seed hunt in the park or in the garden? How many different seeds can you spot?

How do you think each of the seeds is dispersed?

- Use the QR code to see how dandelion seeds are dispersed.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2UbaDV909Q>

