

Name: _____

Plant Life Cycles

Caption: Flowers and seeds of a carrot plant. A carrot is a biennial plant and only flowers every two years. In the first year the plant produces the edible root and a leafy top. If a carrot plant is left in the ground for another year, it flowers and makes seeds.



Plants, like all living things, have **life cycles**. All living things grow and change throughout their life cycles. Almost every plant you see outside started from a seed. Each seed contains everything needed to grow a new plant. The seeds **germinate**, or **sprout**. The small new plant is called a seedling. The seedlings grow. They make flowers. The flowers make seeds for new plants. Then the plant dies.

Plants are classified by how long their life cycle takes. **Annual** plants have a life cycle of just one year. They sprout from seed, grow, make seeds, and die in one growing season. Some plants that are annuals are tomatoes, marigolds, and petunias.

Perennial plants have a life cycle of several growing seasons. These plants can grow, flower, and set seeds for many years. Some perennial plants are peonies, roses, and ferns. These plants may die above ground each winter, but the roots survive. In the spring, new stems and leaves grow above ground from the roots.

Biennial plants need two seasons to complete their life cycle. Biennial plants grow for one season. They grow leaves, stems, and roots. They don't die over the winter. During the second growing season the plant will flower, set seeds, and then die. Some biennial plants are carrots, parsley, sweet William, and foxglove.

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Questions

- _____ 1. When a seed _____, a new plant begins to grow.
- germinates
 - sprouts
 - both A and B
- _____ 2. _____ plants have a life cycle of just one year.
- Annual
 - Biennial
 - Perennial