

## UQ SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

# COMPETITION RULES

### Aim

Now in its 18th year, The University of Queensland's Sunflower Competition promotes the science behind agronomy and horticulture to students, teachers and parents.

The purpose of the competition is to inspire current science students to become the next generation of plant and agricultural scientists, and to support teachers to deliver their science curriculum in a plant-based context.

The competition provides an interactive learning opportunity with school-based experiments and an optional day of workshops and awards at the UQ Gatton campus.

Teachers and students can participate in a number of ways.

You can

1. Grow sunflowers at your school as part of the curriculum (with optional attendance at Weigh-in Day)
2. Enter the 'Communicating Science' component of the competition to compete for prizes (for students who cannot attend the Weigh-in Day)
3. Bring the sunflowers you have grown to the UQ Gatton campus to compete for prizes at the official Weigh-in Day.

### Weigh-in Day

This optional day of workshops and awards will be held at UQ Gatton on Tuesday 16 May 2017.

Each team or entrant may submit up to 2 individual plants for weighing with only the heaviest being recorded for the team.

Plants need to be transported intact, in their original pot and growing medium to the weigh-in venue. Tall plants may need to be staked.

At the weigh-in, tops will be cut off at the cotyledonary node and placed in a previously tared garbage bag for weighing.

Please note: All plants submitted to the competition will be scrutinised by the judges to ensure they meet the competition rules. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any plant or plants that have, in their opinion, been grown contrary to the rules of the competition.



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Registrations close:** Tuesday 7 February 2017

**Planting date:** Tuesday 28 February 2017

**Submission date for Communicating Science entries:** Monday 8 May 2017 (if you would like it displayed at the Weigh-in Day). Alternatively, the final date for submission is Tuesday 23 May 2017.

**Weigh-in Day at UQ Gatton campus:** Tuesday 16 May 2017

### CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

#### Heaviest Sunflower

Years 7-10

1st - \$100 2nd - \$75 3rd - \$50

Years 11-12

1st - \$100 2nd - \$75 3rd - \$50

**Overall Grand Champion - Heaviest Recorded Sunflower \$150**

#### Best 'Communicating Science' entry with report

Years 7-8

1st - \$100 2nd - \$75 3rd - \$50

Years 9-10

1st - \$100 2nd - \$75 3rd - \$50

**Tallest Sunflower \$100**

**Best Ornamental Sunflower \$100**

**2 x Encouragement Awards \$50**

Please note: Tallest sunflower, most ornamental sunflower and the encouragement awards will be presented based upon the discretion of the judges.

# SUNFLOWER PLANTING RULES

## Eligible Contestants

The competition is open to all year 7-12 high school students within Australia.

Teams entering the 'Communicating Science' category may only contain a maximum of 3 members.

## Seeds Kits

UQ will supply you with a small quantity of seeds of a selected variety (a Pacific Seeds hybrid). Only this variety can be planted. Planting is not to occur any earlier than 28 February 2017 and must be supervised by a teacher. You will also receive a booklet of experiments that can be conducted at your school.

You will need to supply the following: 14 litre pot, potting mix, fertiliser, protective mask and watering can.

These seeds have been treated and are not fit for human consumption. Please ensure students wash hands after contact.

## Pots

Pots of up to 14 litres in volume are permitted. This rule is extremely important and any larger pot sizes will be disqualified.

Please note: A suitable 300mm standard, 14 litre pot (code P300STZ) is available from Garden City Plastics.

Pots must not be placed directly on soil and should be placed on an impervious surface such as concrete.

The sunflower plant roots must not escape the pot. A plastic saucer may be used to avoid this. The plant is to be presented to the judges on the weigh-in day in its original growing pot and soil medium.

The competition judges will harvest the plants for weighing.

## Growing Conditions

Each team or entrant is free to choose where and how the plant is grown within the limits of:

- pot size
- solid potting media
- competition rules.

Each team or entrant may choose a watering and fertilising regime that they believe maximises growth.

The experiment booklet is simply a guide. Feel free to deviate from the suggested trials and experiment with light, water, fertiliser and potting mix conditions.

Hint: Plants will perform best in full sun but you may wish to grow comparison plants in shade for class interest.

Handy tips and FAQs to assist you through your sunflower growing journey are available on our website

[uq.edu.au/agriculture/sunflower-competition](http://uq.edu.au/agriculture/sunflower-competition)

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