

Seeds Everywhere!
by Sarah Wassner Flynn



What might happen if a squirrel buries an acorn?

You are outside. You see a plant growing. It is a blackberry bush! You did not plant this bush. Your parents did not plant the bush. Why is it in your yard?

You may be able to thank an animal for the bush. Animals spread seeds in different ways. New plants grow from these seeds.

Waste Not

A raccoon is hungry. It eats blackberries in the woods. Its body does not break down seeds. The animal poops out the seeds. From there, a new plant may grow!

Fly On

A bird's body does not break down seeds. It flies around. Its droppings fall to the ground. The seeds land. New plants may grow there.



Some birds drop seeds on the ground as they fly around.

Sticky Situation

Seeds stick to some animals' fur or feathers. The animal moves around, and the seeds fall off. New plants can grow from those seeds!



Burrs are seeds with hooks. Can you see the hooks on this burr?

Did You Know?



The short-tailed fruit bat can scatter up to **60,000 seeds** each night in its waste.

Burying It

Squirrels eat nuts from trees. They bury some nuts, too. They forget where they buried some of the nuts. A tree may pop up many months later!

One To Grow On

Some animals spread seeds through their waste. Some drop seeds from their bodies. Some bury them in the ground. This helps plants grow in new places!

Dispersal of Seeds



By Wind



By Animals



By Water



By Bursting



By Humans

Animals are just one way seeds are dispersed. They can also move by wind, water, bursting, and humans.