

The Scoop  
For Kids  
Sunflower Play House

Prepare a 6 foot by 9 foot rectangle of ground for planting. Outline with cross ties or landscape timbers two sides and the back of the rectangle. Leave an opening for the doorway. Make a 2-inch deep trench along the two sides and back of the garden space. In the trench, drop sunflower seeds and heavenly blue morning glory seeds, side by side. Cover with soil and water every day. When the sunflowers are 5 feet tall, tie string to the top of one of the sunflowers and lace the string back and forth across the rectangle, weaving the string back and forth to connect the sunflowers together. The morning glories will trail across the string, forming the roof of this sunflower house. Sprinkle grass seed to make a carpet under the sunflower play house. You can also add a large flat rock for a table and short, fat stumps for the children's chairs.

When the sunflowers have bloomed you can collect the seeds and feed the birds in your yard. At this time, get a bird book and let the children learn the different birds that are coming to eat their seeds. Teach them that the Cardinal is Kentucky's bird. It is easy to recognize the Cardinal by the male being a beautiful red. He also thinks highly of his looks because his song is; "pretty, pretty, pretty".

On a different note – You may have noticed fewer Monarchs at your milkweed this summer. According to the World Wildlife Fund, which oversees the annual winter Monarch butterfly count in Mexico, the winter of 2023-24 saw the second lowest number of Monarchs over wintering in Mexico in recorded history. Their number has been low in the past and they have recovered. Keep your milkweed growing and your insecticide away from you flowering plants.

The Gateway Garden Club is an award winning member of the Garden Club of Kentucky and National Garden Club. For more information call Becky Oliver at 270-522-3150