

# Mammoth Sunflower (Graystripe)

*Helianthus annuus 'Mammoth Grey Stripe'*

## At a Glance

- Height: 8 to 12 feet tall
- Bloom Colors: Classic yellow petals with large brown centers
- Bloom Time: Mid to late summer
- Days to Maturity: 80-100 days
- Best For: Birdseed, edible seeds, impressive garden backdrops

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

- Soil Temperature: 60-70F for best germination
- Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil
- Light Requirements: Full sun (6-8+ hours daily)
- Planting Depth: 1 inch deep
- Seeding Rate: 1 seed every 18-24 inches
- Plant Spacing: Thin to 18-24 inches apart for strong stems
- Moisture Needs: Moderate; deep water during dry spells
- Average Germination Time: 7-10 days

## How to Grow

- When to Plant: Direct sow after last frost when soil is warm.
- Location: Full sun, sheltered from strong winds.
- Spacing: Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart.
- Watering: Deep, infrequent watering promotes strong roots.
- Fertilizer: Light feeding; too much nitrogen leads to weaker stalks.

## Tips for Success

- Plant in rows or clusters for support.
- Stake if needed in windy areas.
- Harvest seeds after flower heads droop and backs turn yellow.
- Leave some heads standing for birds in autumn.

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## Fun Fact

Mammoth Sunflowers produce seeds large enough for roasting and snacking, and they're also a favorite for wild birds!

## Companion Planting

Pairs well with corn and climbing beans for a natural trellis effect. Avoid shading small sun-loving plants.

## Harvesting and Use

Cut heads when seeds are plump and backs are yellow. Dry, then rub seeds free for bird feed or roasting.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow outdoors after frost
- Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart
- Stake tall plants if windy
- Deep water for sturdy growth
- Harvest when backs of heads turn yellow