

## **Laboratory 20**

### **Seed Plants**

### **Student Tip Sheet**

You will probably enjoy learning about these familiar species of plants. These flowering plants are the “normal” or “real” plants that you commonly see. These are, of course, plants that reproduce by seeds. After you study the life cycles and descriptions of familiar plants you will never look at a field of wildflowers or an apple tree loaded with apples the same way. Different approaches can be taken to study this information depending on your school environment. If your campus is surrounded by cement, you may want to look at the fruits and flowers in a florist shop or grocery store for examples from class discussions. You will find examples of classroom specimens in commercial greenhouses, parks, botanical gardens, or even private homes. Always realize though that many ornamental specimens have been cultivated from all over the world for their beauty, resistance to disease, or ease of growth. These are not necessarily native to your area but can be found growing in your yard or around your school. As a general rule, it is better to use native examples for study. Add local reference guides to your home library. Take the references on family outings just as added interest for the roadside biologist.

If your school is in a rural area with a campus of native trees and flowers about, try to take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the natural specimens outside. Learn all that you can about your own environment. You will appreciate it more, and your knowledge may be useful as you become an adult member of your community and have to make decisions about local topics such as a roadway route or the location of a new mall.

As you study about the various species you will find that many articles in the media will have more meaning for you. You will understand spring pine pollen blooms and the details of pinecone production. Photomicrographs of pollen grains will not be so mysterious to you. You might even want to spend some time comparing the different types of pollen – oak vs. pine, for example. There are lots of articles and study programs centered around the need for information because so many people have allergies and are sensitive to these airborne cells. You might discover a new interest for your life.

In addition, it can be really beneficial to be with your teacher on class field trips. In these casual circumstances, you may learn that your teachers are people, too, and have interesting lives away from the classroom. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about your subject topic, but also to ask questions relating to your peers or career plans. Your teacher many times has much to offer about life’s experiences and can help you make important decisions. If you have interests in pursuing the sciences, what better person to help you make some decisions than someone that knows you and your capabilities as well as the subject that you enjoy. Do not miss an opportunity to learn from this professional and friend that has your best interest at heart.