## It All Starts With A Seed

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provide $66 \%$ of global food calories



## Seeds As Livestock Feed

>70\% of global food calories


## Hierarchy of Needs




Evolution Dispersal Dormancy
Stress tolerance

## Seeds Before Dinosaurs






## Heterospory

Pathway to Seeds

## Integument Evolution

## Protecting the New Plant




## Pollen Capture Structures

## Improving Efficiency



Stephanospermum akenioides - fossil seed of a "medullosan seed fern" (Permian-Carboniferous Lyginopteridopsida; ca. 1 cm long). Drawing of Oliver and Salisbury (1911) from K. Schnarf (1937), Anatomie der Gymnospermen-Samen, Verlag von Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin. © 2007 G. Leubner - The Seed Biology Place - http://www.seedbiology.de





## Evolution of Seed Habit



## Seed Dispersal Mechanisms

Spreading Seeds Far and Wide


Ballistic Seed Dispersal

Ballistic Seed Dispersal



# Seed Dormancy 

Enhances Seedling Survival

Non-dormant
seeds



## Seed Dormancy Classes



Physiological Dormancy


Physical Dormancy

Morphological Dormancy


Morpho-physiological

## Seed Dormancy Classes



Combinational (PY+PD)

## Seed Dormancy

## Bred Out of Most Vegetable and Flower Seeds



## Seed Desiccation Tolerance

Ecologically and Agriculturally Important


Days of development


5-10\% Moisture

## Humans are about 55\% water


$3-4 \%$ loss
(53\% water)


10\% loss
(49\% water)
Physical/mental deterioration

$15 \%$ loss
(47\% water)


## Evolution Dispersal Dormancy <br> Stress

I have great faith in a seed... I am prepared to expect wonders.
Henry David Thoreau

## Will You Share The Wonders of Seeds?



