**COMPARE AND CONTRAST SEED DIVERSITY**

**TIME REQUIRED:** 20 minutes

**OVERVIEW**

Students make qualitative and quantitative observations while investigating the incredible diversity found within a single crop.

**MATERIALS**

* Rulers for measuring
* Coloured pencils, markers or crayons for drawing
* At least three different bean seed varieties. Try to source dramatically different looking bean seeds in shape, size and colour. Add more columns to the chart below if you wish to compare more bean seed varieties.

**PROCEDURE**

Put three different bean seeds in containers in front of students. Egg carton cells work well for this. Ensure that each cell is labelled with the name of each bean variety. Students complete the chart below.

**Compare and Contrast Bean Seed Diversity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of the Bean Variety | 1. | 2. | 3. |
| Make a colour illustration of each bean seed. |  |  |  |
| What is the length of each bean? |  |  |  |
| What is the width of each bean? |  |  |  |

**EXTENSION**

* Make further observations about each bean variety, for ex. the mass or buoyancy of each seed.
* Ask students which variety of bean they are most interested in planting in the garden and why?
* Have students draw what they imagine each bean seed will look like when it grows into a plant. Students may be surprised to learn that the appearance of a seed does not necessarily have any bearing on what the adult plant will look like. Bright colourful seeds sometimes grow into plain looking plants and dull looking seeds grow up to be spectacular looking plants. You can’t judge a seed by its cover!