

Seed dispersal by ecological and environmental processes

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Individual seeds can be adapted for flight with hairs or wings

Taraxacum officinale
dandelion



Wind dispersal due to movement of the whole shoot

Amaranthus albus - Tumble weed



Max Gershon

Animal dispersal can occur when seeds become attached to fur

Desmodium sp. - beggarweed



Jose Rodriguez

Cenchrus echinatus
Southern sandbur



peanut.tamu.edu/weeds_photo.htm

Xanthium strumarium
Common cocklebur

Animals can also be rewarded for dispersing seeds

Solanum nigrum



www.br.fgov.be

Solanum viarum



Jeff Mullahey

Structures that permit seeds to float enable dispersal by water

Rumex crispus – curly dock



Oil-rich structures on seeds can attract ants

Trillium recurvatum – Prairie trillium



Elaiosomes

Fruits of some plants upon drying can undergo explosive dehiscence

Oxalis stricta – yellow woodsorrel



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