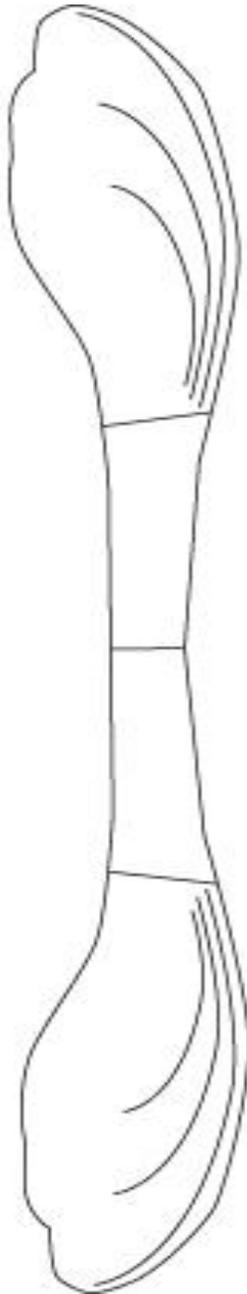


### Fly Your Own Maple Seed Helicopter

- 1.) Print out the helicopter- pattern.
  - 2.) Fold along lines to make a double-winged maple seed.
  - 3.) Attach a small paper clip “seed” to folded section.
  - 4.) Toss the helicopter /seed up to see it twirl.
- Variations: Try adding additional clips to see how that affects the motion of the helicopter.
  - Stand in a chair and drop the seed. Does it spin more when tossed from a greater height?
  - Try finding another seed that spins.



### Blowing in the Wind

Seeds are dispersed in five different ways—by water, fire, animals, explosions, and wind. Seeds are dispersed so they don't compete with their parent plants for soil, water, sun, and nutrients, thereby increasing their chances for successful growth.

Some wind-dispersed seeds have structures that act like tiny parachutes, carrying the seed far away from its parent plant. Dandelions and milkweed seeds are examples of this kind of high flyer. Other wind-borne seeds are wing-shaped, spinning through the air like helicopter rotors to propel the seeds great distances. Descending maple and tulip tree “helicopters” land seed end up on the ground. This enables the seed to “plant” itself—exposing it to soil and increasing its chances of germination and growth. Modern technology finds inspiration in nature's designs: Helicopter rotors were modeled after these aerodynamic seeds.