

# GROW PORTLAND

## HOW GOOD IS YOUR NOSE?

**Test your own sense of smell to compare to the superpower senses of bees!!**

**Supplies:** A partner! Several smelly things. Like: fragrant flowers (growing right now: Daphne, daffodils, violets), rosemary leaves, small cup of soil, essential oils, other herbs and flowers, peppers, spices etc.), dirty socks, fabric softener sheets (ask permission please!). Read up on why bees are so cool [here](#)

**Bee Superpowers:** Bees have incredible superpower senses! They communicate using special dances ([check it out](#)), an amazing sense of smell, and pheromones. Bees can see ultraviolet light (humans can't!) and are usually drawn to blue, white, and yellow flowers. Bees are able to detect scent using their mouths, antennae, and tips of their legs. They use their sense of smell to check on the health of the queen bee, forage for food, locate their hive, and detect friends from foe. Their sense of smell is so good that scientists are experimenting with using bees to sniff out bombs! Bees can detect smells in mid-flight and can smell flowers from 1 mile away. A bee's sense of smell is 100 times more powerful than humans.

**Smell Test:** Let's test our own sense of smell to see how we compare to the amazing powers of bees. One person is the 'smeller'. They close their eyes, and their partner holds an item up to their nose for about 5 seconds (don't touch their face!! Just hold it close to their nose), then returns it to the pile. Smeller opens eyes and tries to name the item just smelled. If the smeller gets it right, try doing 2-3 smells in a row with closed eyes then opening eyes and identifying smells in order... Switch roles

**How accurate were your senses of smell? What made this challenging?**

