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*Helianthus*

*Compositae*

[*Asteraceae*]

*Helianthus* is derived from Greek *helio-* (sun) and *antho-* (flower) components.

Until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries authorities have believed that sunflowers were first domesticated in north-eastern North America. But archaeological discoveries at the San Andres dig in southernmost Mexico have suggested that Olmec farmers could have been cultivating sunflowers there as early as 2500 BC. Authorities do point out however that as this area is south of that recognized as the wild sunflower range seeds found in the site may well have come from further north in Mexico.