

LONGWOOD
GARDENS

Weird Plants Cards

Art from *Weird Plants* by Chris Thorogood



Community Read
Read. Think. Engage.

WEIRD PLANT



Rafflesia
Rafflesia arnoldii

Category: Vampire Plant

Location: N. Borneo

Features: Lacks leaves, roots and stems, and lives in tissue of a host plant. World's largest flower.

Pollinator: Flies, attracted by stinky odor.

WEIRD PLANT



Hydnora
Hydnora africana

Category: Vampire Plant

Location: Semi-deserts in S. Africa

Features: No chlorophyll and takes nutrients from other plants' roots. "World's weirdest plant."

Pollinator: Dung beetles attracted by feces-like odor.

WEIRD PLANT



Low's Pitcher Plant
Nepenthes lowii

Category: Killer Plant

Location: N. Borneo mountainside

Features: Tree shrew excretes in pitcher giving plant nutrients.

Pollinator: Tree shrews attracted by nectar.

WEIRD PLANT



Trumpet Pitcher
Sarracenia flava

Category: Killer Plant

Location: Swamps of S.E. US

Features: Stuns insects to fall into pool of digestive juices.

Pollinator: Insects attracted by sweet nectar & colors.

WEIRD PLANT



Venus Flytrap
Dionaea muscipula

Category: Killer Plant

Location: Wetlands of the Carolinas

Features: Trap closes if hairs are touched more than once, or if multiple hairs are touched.

Pollinator: Insects, small amphibians & reptiles attracted by sweet nectar.

WEIRD PLANT



Rothschild's Slipper Orchid
Paphiopedilum rothschildianum

Category: Fraudster Plant

Location: Mt. Kinabalu in N. Borneo

Features: Sepals covered with spots attracting wasps wanting to lay eggs. Extremely rare.

Pollinator: Parasitic wasps attracted by small green aphid-looking dots.

WEIRD PLANT



Flying Duck Orchid
Caleana major

Category: Fraudster Plant

Location: S. and E. Australia

Features: Flower looks like flying duck & fling sawflies into pollen-covered reproductive structures.

Pollinator: Male sawflies attracted by female sawfly-shaped flowers.

WEIRD PLANT



Monkey-Face Orchid
Dracula simia

Category: Fraudster Plant

Location: Central and South America

Features: Flower resembles a monkey and lower lip looks like a mushroom

Pollinator: Fungus gnats attracted by mushroom scent.

WEIRD PLANT



Dutchman's Pipe
Aristolochia spp.

Category: Jailer Plant

Location: Most continents

Features: Hairs trap insects and then wither to release them – also known as birthworts.

Pollinator: Insects attracted by color & smell of flower.

WEIRD PLANT



Titan Arum
Amorphophallus titanum

Category: Jailer Plant

Location: Forests of Sumatra

Features: Inflorescence is a bunch of tiny flowers and takes 7–10 years to bloom

Pollinator: Insects attracted by corpse-like smell.

WEIRD PLANT



Bird Of Paradise
Strelitzia reginae

Category: Accomplice Plant

Location: Cape Provinces of S. Africa

Features: Sunbird perches on petals which spring open revealing pollen. Perennial plant.

Pollinator: Sunbird attracted by beak-like shape and colorful flower.

WEIRD PLANT



Bat Pitcher Plant
Nepenthes hemsleyana

Category: Accomplice Plant

Location: Borneo

Features: Provides roosting site for bats as they nourish plant with their guano.

Pollinator: Woolly bats attracted by reflection of bat calls.

WEIRD PLANT



Half-Mens
Pachypodium namaquanum

Category: Survivor Plant

Location: S. Africa's northern cape and S. Namibia

Features: Silhouette looks like a person. Stores large amounts of water and lives several hundred years. Succulent plant.

Pollinator: Ants & bees attracted by sap.

WEIRD PLANT



Coco De Mer
Lodoicea maldivica

Category: Survivor Plant

Location: Seychelles Islands

Features: Largest seed in plant kingdom-only 3 populations left in world from limited seed dispersal.

Pollinator: Unknown, suspected to be by bees & lizards, wind and water.

WEIRD PLANT



Durian
Durio zibethinus

Category: Hitch-hiker Plant

Location: S.E. Asia

Features: Strong, foul odor and sweet fruit.

Pollinator: Mammals like orangutans spread seeds after eating fruit. Bats pollinate flowers.

WEIRD PLANT



Traveller's Palm
Ravenala madagascariensis

Category: Hitch-hiker Plant

Location: Madagascar

Features: Flowering plant related to Bird of Paradise. Not a true palm.

Pollinator: Lemurs attracted by blue seed pods.

CLUE CARD

My stinky odor attracts flies.
I live off a host plant and don't have a stem, leaves or roots.

CLUE CARD

My sepals are covered with spots that look like aphids to attract my pollinator.
I am extremely rare.

CLUE CARD

I live underground in the desert until I bloom.
Dung beetles like me.

CLUE CARD

I trick my pollinator into thinking I'm a female sawfly.
I can be found in Australia.

CLUE CARD

I can be found in North Borneo.
I am known as a toilet for the tree shrew.

CLUE CARD

I can be found in Central and South America.
I smell like a mushroom.

CLUE CARD

My bright colors and sweet nectar attract insects. I produce a paralyzing narcotic to stun insects.

CLUE CARD

I can be known as a birthwort.
I'm found on most continents.

CLUE CARD

I can be found in North or South Carolina.
I can catch small amphibians, reptiles or insects.

CLUE CARD

I smell like a corpse.
It takes me 7-10 years to bloom.

CLUE CARD

I am like a diving board for a sunbird.

I am a perennial.

CLUE CARD

I can be found in Madagascar.

Lemurs like my large, blue seed pods.

CLUE CARD

I can be found in Borneo.

I am nourished by bat guano.

CLUE CARD

I can live several hundred years by storing water in my trunk.

I am a succulent.

CLUE CARD

I have the largest seed in the plant kingdom.

No one knows exactly how I am pollinated.

CLUE CARD

Forest mammals spread my seeds after eating my sweet fruit.

My fruit emits a foul odor.