

Perfectly Peculiar Plants



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

The Botanic
Summer Trail



Welcome!

Ready to explore the wonderful **but perfectly peculiar** world of plants?



The trail is in two parts -

1. The **WEIRD PLANTS** exhibition introduces some of the world's weirdest and most peculiar plants.
2. Then discover them and more in our Glasshouses (charge for adults, children under 16 go free!).

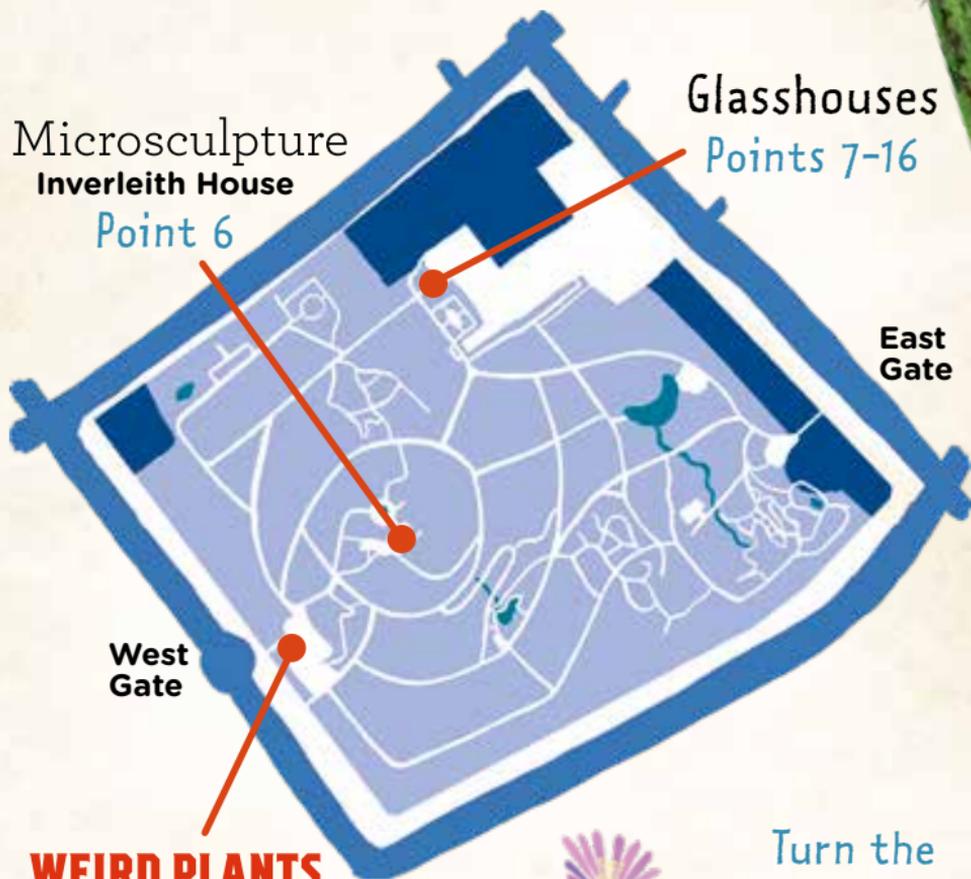
Also, don't miss the Microsculpture exhibition of incredible insect images, where you will find point 6.



You can save some of the trail for another visit.

Garden Map

Use the map to help you navigate the Garden and find the points on the Trail.



Microsculpture
Inverleith House
Point 6

Glasshouses
Points 7-16

East Gate

West Gate

WEIRD PLANTS
John Hope Gateway
Points 1-5



Turn the
page to start
exploring...



● WEIRD PLANTS

(John Hope Gateway)

1. Rafflesia (Rafflesia arnoldii)

Rafflesia is a truly monstrous plant. Find out why it is known as a vampire plant!

Keep your eyes and nostrils open for more plants whose foul stench attracts pollinators...



2. Resurrection plant (Selaginella lepidophylla)

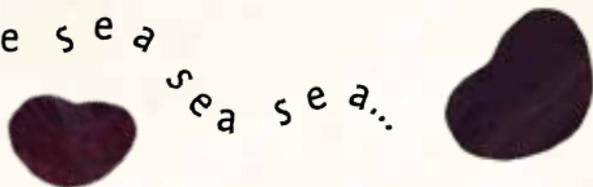
How does this desert survivor make it in the driest places on earth?  Draw it here.



Can you think of another plant which can survive with little or no water?

3. Sea bean (Entada gigas)

The sea bean starts life many miles inland. Discover how their seeds find their floaty way to the sea

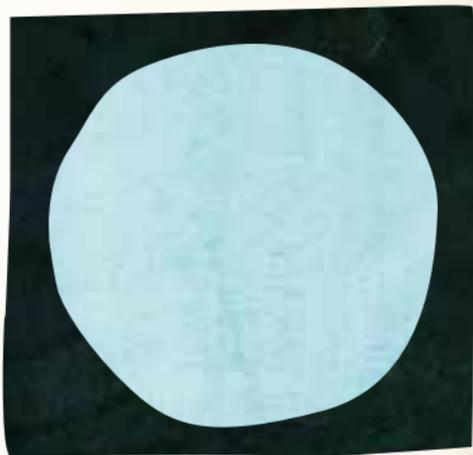


Imagine if you came across a seed pod on a beach. Would you believe how far it had travelled?

4. Burdock (Arctium lappa)

What do the seeds of the burdock and a pair of trainers have in common?

 Draw the seed with its hooks in the microscope viewer.





5. Tree shrew toilet pitcher

(Nepenthes lowii)

The common name of this plant doesn't leave much to the imagination! Where did this clever plant evolve to make the most of its animal neighbours?  Write it here.

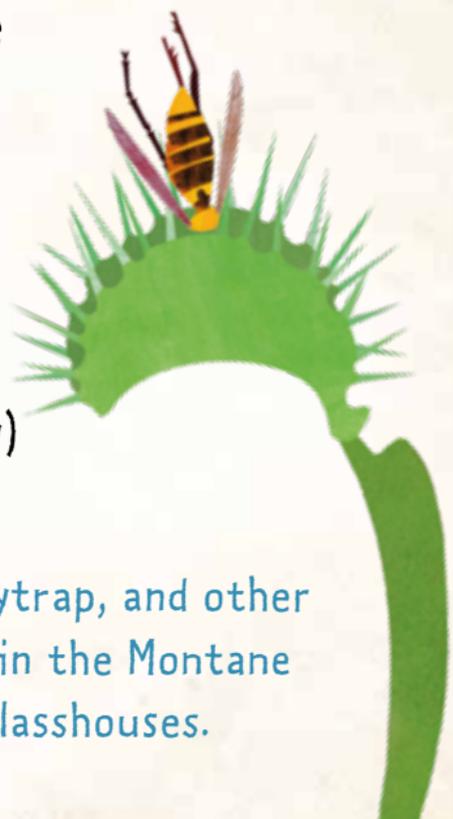
● Microsculpture (Inverleith House)

6. Venus flytrap

Dionaea muscipula

How does the Venus flytrap lure blowflies (and other insect prey) into its leafy jaws?

You can see a Venus flytrap, and other insect-eating plants, in the Montane Tropics House in the Glasshouses.



● Glasshouses

7. Bucket orchid (*Coryanthes macrantha*)

Find out what clever tricks these plants have evolved to make insects pollinate other flowers.



8. Giant waterlily (*Victoria amazonica*)

Beetles spend 24 hours inside the white flowers of the giant waterlily. How does this plant attract its night-time residents?



 Write on the lily pad.





9. Air plant (Tillandsia pretiosa)

Air plants spread their seeds far across the forest canopies of North, South and Central America. Find out how they do this.

10. Pebble plant (Lithops hookeri)

Just like pebbles, leaves come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Find out why this desert plant is disguised as a pebble. **Add patterns to these pebble plants to camouflage them.**



11. Saguaro cactus

(Carnegiea gigantea)

How does the towering saguaro cactus protect its water supply from thirsty animals in the desert?



 Draw it on the cactus.

12. Sundew (Drosera rotundifolia)

The sundew is a cunning carnivore, just like its cousin, the Venus flytrap. Find out what happens when an insect lands on its sticky tentacles.





13. Strangler fig

(Ficus benghalensis)

Strangler figs start off life at the top of rainforest trees where there is plenty of light. Find out how they become strong, free-standing trees.



14. Pitcher plant

(Nepenthes rafflesiana)

Carnivorous plants grow in poor soils so they have evolved some killer skills in order to survive.

 Draw some insect victims in this trap.

15. Ant plant (Hydnophytum formicarum)

Find out what benefits ants bring to the plants they live on and nest in.



Look closely - are there any ants busily going about their business?

16. Titan arum (Amorphophallus titanum)

The titan arum's stinky spike is called a spadix and is the biggest in the plant world. Some reach a towering 3 metres!



At night for a few hours it smells terrible. Yuk! Perhaps not to our tastes, but flies love it!



Keep this booklet and explore
more of our weird plants
on your next visit! Share what
you find on social media

#WeirdPlants @TheBotanics

The following books are available in
our shop and at the Palmhouse Reception.



All sales support the work of the Garden

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