

THE PECULIAR PLANT AWARDS

Welcome to our roundup of the freakiest, fanciest and most fabulous foliage on the planet!

We thought it was about time the greenery of the globe got some attention here at Nat Geo Kids – so get ready to be wowed by some stinky, sensational and seriously *spooky* plants!

FANCIEST OUTFIT

Veiled lady mushroom*
(*Phallus indusiatus*)

Grows: Rainforests of southern Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia

Give us a twirl! This fancy fungus has a **lacy-looking skirt** hanging beneath its cap. But while its spectacular net may be delightfully dainty, the top of this mushroom is drenched in a **slimy, smelly greenish brown sludge** that attracts flies. Hence its other name – the **basket stinkhorn**!

I'M A FUNGUS IN A FROCK!



CREEPIEST

Snapdragon seed pod
(*Antirrhinum majus*)

Grows: Rocky areas of Europe, North Africa and the USA

Lurking beneath the pretty petals of the **snapdragon** flower is a spooky seed pod which looks just like a **shrunken skull**. Yikes! In ancient times, the pods were believed to have **supernatural** powers that could protect against curses!

Grow me in the garden!



MWA HA HA HA!

DID YOU KNOW...?

The snapdragon gets its name because if you squeeze its sides the petals will open and shut – just like a dragon's jaws!



EEK, GERROFF, THAT TICKLES!

I'm a great house plant!



MOST SENSITIVE

Shy plant
(*Mimosa pudica*)

Grows: Native to South and Central America

Think plants aren't ticklish? Well, think again! This one responds **immediately** to touch, its little feathery leaves folding up at the slightest poke. The speedy shrinking reaction may help to **protect** it from being gobbled up. Clever!

MOST KISSABLE

Hot Lips
(*Psychotria elata*)

Grows: Tropical rainforests in Central and South America

Pucker up for this pouty plant, whose bright red colour is used to attract **bees** and **hummingbirds**. The red 'lips' aren't actually a flower at all – they're **special leaves** known as **bracts**. Tiny blooms emerge from the middle of these leaves. In Latin America, this plant is given as a gift on Valentine's Day instead of roses!



GIVE US A SMOOCH!

BIGGEST

Rafflesia arnoldii

Grows: The islands of Sumatra and Borneo in Southeast Asia

This big red beast is the **largest individual flower** in the world, growing up to **one metre in diameter**! A **parasitic plant**, it doesn't have any roots or leaves and steals its nutrients from a host plant. The big bloom takes ten months to grow and emits a **seriously strong pong** that entices **flies** to come and **pollinate** it. It then dies after just three days!

I'M BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS!



Turn over to find out more about crazy plants...