

DID YOU KNOW...?

The Indonesian name for titan arum is 'bunga bangkai' – or **corpse flower**. That's how bad it smells. Gross!

STINKIEST

Titan arum
(*Amorphophallus titanum*)

Grows: Rainforests of western Sumatra in Indonesia

There are a surprisingly large number of smelly plants on our planet, but our whiffy winner has to be the mighty **titan arum**, which grows up to **3m tall**! On the very rare occasion that this giant flowers, its tall spike lets off a rancid pong that's been compared to **rotting meat** and **rancid fish**. Gag! The stench draws flies and beetles into the purple funnel, where they get covered in pollen from the small flowers that grow at the base.



EW!

BET YOU'RE GLAD THIS MAG ISN'T SCRATCH 'N' SNIFF!

DICTIONARY

Pollination

This is when **pollen** is transferred from **male flower parts** to **female flower parts** so that new seeds can grow.

ROCK ON!

I'm a great house plant!

Lithops are easy to look after at home!

BEST DISGUISE

Living stone (*Lithops*)

Grows: Dry areas across southern Africa

Is it a **pebble**? Is it a **stone**? Nope, it's a plant – honest! Each ***Lithops*** consists of just two chunky leaves whose colours and texture blend into their surroundings to **fool grazing animals**. Eventually, a pretty flower will bloom through the pebble – sorry, we mean plant!

BEST BEE IMPRESSION

Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*)

Grows: Europe

To **trick bees** into **pollinating** them (see dictionary, bottom left), these cunning orchids have developed a **yellow and brown pattern** on their petals that looks just like a buzzing insect. They even have a **hairy texture**! Bees attempt to mate with the 'fake' bee, transferring pollen onto the flower. Clever!

BZZZZZZZ!
HA, HA!
TRICKED YOU!

FASTEST GROWING

Bamboo

Grows: Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas.

Most famous for being panda food, bamboo is in the record books for being the world's **fastest growing plant**. Some species can grow a staggering **91cm per day** – that's almost **4cm an hour**! Though its hollow canes are wood-like and grow in forests, bamboo is actually a type of **grass**. As **strong as steel**, canes are used in **buildings** and can be turned into **luxury fabrics**!

I PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT RUNNING OUT OF GRUB!

MOST BONKERS BLOOM

Passion flower (*Passiflora*)

Grows: Southeast Asia, the Americas and the Pacific

We reckon this exotic bloom looks like a piece of **magical machinery**, but it's actually named after the '**Passion of Jesus Christ**' in Christianity. Spanish missionaries in the 15th century thought the bloom was full of religious symbols. In other parts of the world they're known as **clock plants**!

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Grow me in the garden!

These spectacular vines can be spotted in sunny gardens in the UK!

UGLIEST

Tree tumbo
(*Welwitschia mirabilis*)

Grows: The Namib Desert, southern Africa

This dried out, fraying desert plant might not be much to look at, but it's extraordinary, living over **1,000 years**! It actually only has **two leaves**, which **split** and **wither** as they grow. These leaves absorb what little moisture there is in the dry air and **grow continuously** throughout the plant's long life. Long **taproots** extend deep **underground** to soak up any available water. Amazing!

AGE BEFORE BEAUTY...

I'M A VEGETARIAN, HONEST!

FREAKIEST

Hydnora africana

Grows: Dry regions across southern Africa

Most of this **parasitic plant** grows underground, attached to the roots of a 'host' plant. Only the fleshy **monster-mouth**-like flower emerges from the soil, emitting a poeey pong to attract dung beetles. The insects get **trapped inside** for several days until they're covered in pollen – then the three 'jaws' open to release them. Wow!

Flip the page to find out about **carnivorous plants**...