

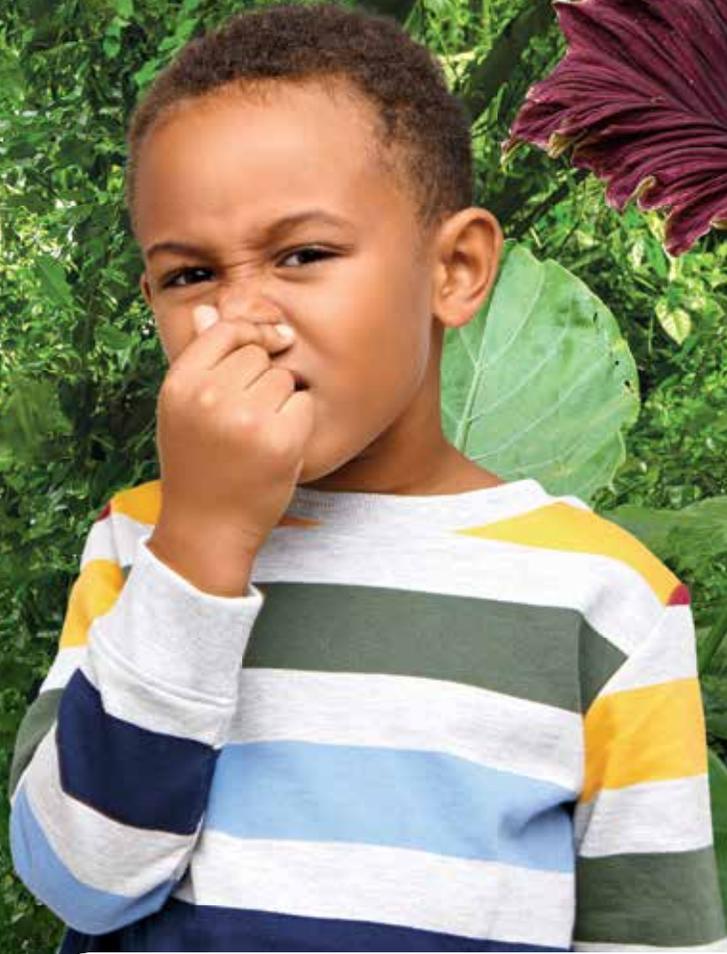


News[®]

edition
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This Plant STINKS!

Corpse
Flower



Roses are red.
Tulips smell sweet.
This giant plant
stinks like old meat!

This flower smells bad,
and it's not the only one!
Turn the page to learn
about three gross plants.

My name _____

World's Grossest Plants

As You Read

Think about what helps each gross plant survive.

Our world is full of incredible plants. Some of them smell wonderful and some look beautiful. And some of them are just *gross*.

We've found three of the world's grossest plants. Learn all about them if you dare!

Stinky Plant

The rafflesia plant is big, red, bumpy, and smells like rotten meat!

While that smell might sound gross to you, not everyone feels that way.

Some insects eat rotten meat. When they get a whiff of the rafflesia, they think they're smelling a tasty meal. They crawl around on the flower to take a closer look, and they get covered in dusty **pollen**.

The insects fly away and transport the pollen to other rafflesia plants. The pollen helps those plants make new seeds. One day, those seeds will sprout

and more stinky rafflesia plants will grow somewhere new!

Slimy Plant

Smell isn't the only gross way for plants to get what they need. Look at the Sierra Mixe corn plant. It looks like it has gooey red fingers



This is the stinky rafflesia plant. The pollen dust is in here!



This Sierra Mixe uses slime to get nutrients from the air.

growing out of it.

Those slime-covered things are roots!

The roots of most plants grow under the ground and soak up **nutrients** from the soil. Nutrients are what living things need to stay strong and healthy.

But the Sierra Mixe grows its roots in the air instead of the ground. Its roots are covered in a thick, disgusting slime called **mucus**. The mucus has a critical job.

It pulls nutrients right out of the air, allowing the corn plant to grow strong, healthy—and gross!

Toilet Plant

This last plant might be the grossest one of all. It's called a pitcher plant. Pitcher plants grow in places where they can't get enough nutrients from the soil. So some pitcher plants get their nutrients

in a totally disgusting way.

The pitcher plant is shaped like a big cup, and animals sit on its edge to lick sweet **nectar** from the plant. While the animals are resting there, they use the plant as a toilet. They poop right into the cup!

The poop is just what the pitcher plant needs. The plant breaks down the poop and gets plenty of nutrients. And the animal gets a nice bathroom break!

These plants may not smell sweet, and they may not look pretty. But these three gross plants are amazing! The things that make them gross are exactly what they need to survive.

—by Blair Rainsford



Excuse me! This tree shrew is pooping in a pitcher plant.