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PLANT TECH CORNER

Taking a vacation this month? Good! You deserve time away but I know your going to miss you office plants - right? Don't worry, you might run into some of those plants outdoors on your trip. Many plants we use in your offices are actually tropical plants that grow outdoors in different climates.

Pothos, the most common indoor plant is native to the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. In its native habitat, Pothos is a low growing plant, creeping on the ground up to 10 feet long. Ficus Lyrata (fiddle leaf fig) is native to Africa and can grow 40' tall. When kept indoors it only grows to be ¼ of that size. In eastern Africa, the ZZ plant is a tropical perennial and is in the plant family Arum. Draecna marginata is native shrub to the Madagascar where it grows 20' tall. It produces tiny white fragrant flowers in spring, which are followed by orange berries in the fall. Aglaonemas are Chinese evergreen plants, native to southern China, Burma, and Thailand. These plants dwell on the jungle floor and there are over 30 species.

So while you're on vacation this month, look around at the landscape and see if you recognize any of the plants.

Jessica Doty, *Plant Technician*

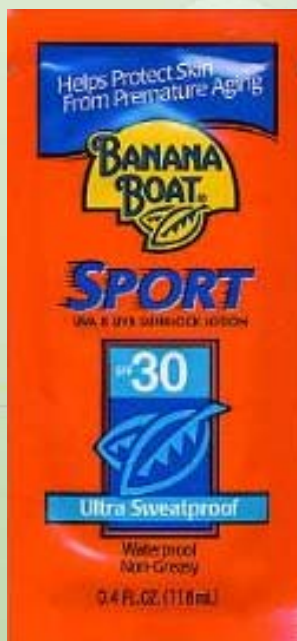
Plants Have Been Seen to Display Incredible Intelligence

Plants are intelligent forms of life that are capable of intention, preference, and a will to survive, thrive and interact. Scientific research indicates that plants communicate with insects, animals, human beings and other plants in order to keep themselves alive and safe.

In research which spans more than 100 years, scientists have been documenting botanical adaptability and the amazing similarities that plants have with animals and people. Studies indicate that what psychics, shaman, tribal people worldwide have been saying about the plant kingdom for a millennia is true: plants are intelligent beings that can communicate with us, and that we can communicate with them.

To protect themselves, plants have developed highly adaptive and strategic ways for living. According to the observations and documentation, "Plants seem to know which ants will steal their nectar, closing when these ants are about, opening only when there is enough dew on their stems to keep the ants from climbing. The more sophisticated acacia plant actually enlists the protective services of certain ants which it rewards with nectar in return for the ants' protection against other insects and herbivorous mammals," thus serving the same function as friends and allies do in the animal and human realms. Some vegetation develop a bitter taste, some ooze gummy secretions, while others grow thorns to defend themselves.

OUR GIFT TO YOU!



PLANT OF THE MONTH

The Kalanchoe

is a sturdy, hard leaf plant with tiny blossoms that bloom in bunches to create the look of a larger flower. The Kalanchoe prefers high light and evenly moist while in bloom.



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