



Plants and Their Floral Visitors

Teacher Information Sheet 7

DRAFT

Overview

Many of Townsville's local native plants have beautiful and interesting flowers and fruit, which we enjoy in our gardens. They also perform an important role in our ecosystems, animals that help to pollinate flowers and assist the plant to produce seeds are rewarded with resources ensuring the survival of the species. The role of the Green tree ant as a floral visitor/pollinator in this region is explored.

Activities

- » Investigate what a pollinator and disperser is and why they are important
- » Explore different fruits, flowers and seeds that attract pollinators and dispersers
- » Survey the plants within the school grounds and examine the types of pollinators they may have
- » Record different pollinators seen around the school grounds
- » Watch one plant species transform from flower-bearing to fruit bearing and see if different animals are attracted at different stages

Pollinator Facts

- The type and shape of flower can tell you what kind of pollinator will be attracted to it
- Some of the colours that attract a pollinator can only be seen by infra-red or Ultra-Violet light
- Green tree ants play a very important role in the pollination of plants
- Some plants "bribe" pollinators by producing nectar or even imitating a pollinators mate!
- http://www.soe-townsville.org/greentreeants/pdfs/secret_sex_lives_of_tropical_trees.pdf



Greentree Ants



Duration

1 hr

Max Students

1 class group

What's Required

Hats, sunscreen, closed in shoes, animal/plant identification resources, energy and creativity

Contact

Townsville City Council
Integrated Sustainability Services
4727 9525

Core Learning Outcomes

Science	SOSE
LL 1.1, 1.2	PS1.2
LL 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, D2.5	PS 2.2
LL 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 D3.4 EB 3.3	
LL 4.1	

