

Did You Know That...?

- ... pistachios, cashews, and mangos are in the same plant family as poison ivy?
- ... the popular San Pedro cactus contains hallucinogens like peyote?
- ... white tea, yellow tea, oolong, green tea, and black tea are all made from the same species of *Camellia*?
- ... almonds are not true nuts and belong instead to the rose family?
- ... peanuts are also not true nuts and belong to the legume family?
- ... the sunflower family has the most species, just ahead of the orchid family?
- ... bamboos can grow three feet in a single day?
- ... all parts of oleanders and cycads (“sago palms”) are poisonous?
- ... a sunflower is not one flower but an inflorescence of hundreds of flowers?
- ... the strawberry is the only fruit with external seeds?
- ... lightning strikes oak trees more than any other trees?
- ... caffeine functions as a pesticide in a coffee plant?
- ... a species of carnivorous pitcher plant in the Philippines can devour a full-grown rat?
- ... over 70,000 plant species are used for medicinal purposes?
- ... Spanish moss is not a moss at all but in the same family as the pineapple?
- ... oak trees do not produce acorns until they are at least 50 years old?
- ... 68% of plant species are endangered?

... although 80% of plant species are edible, 90% of what we eat comes from only 30 of them?

... 80% of the world's forests have been lost to development and climate change?

... plants can recognize their siblings using chemical signals secreted from their roots?

... you should not drink water from a cactus plant because the alkaloids can damage your kidneys?

... cabbage, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, and kohlrabi are all the same species (*Brassica oleracea*)?

... the world's smallest flowering plant (0.1–0.2 mm in diameter) is the aquatic *Wolffia globosa*?

... the world's tallest trees are the redwoods?

... the smallest seeds, as fine as dust, belong to orchids?

... 70,000 plant species are used for medicine?

... plants can communicate with one another through underground fungal networks and share resources?

... giant Amazonian water lilies, 6 feet across, use their spikes and “clubs” to eliminate competition for light?

... vanilla flavoring was first produced by the Aztecs from the orchid *Vanilla planifolia* to flavor chocolate?

... pineapples are native to South America, not Hawaii?

... houseplants cleanse the air and reduce stress?