

Five Fun Facts about Plants that you did not know about



1. The Bougainvillea is not a Shrub...

- The bougainvillea is a plant that can be commonly found in our City in a Garden, lining our roads and overhead bridges.
- For landscaping purposes, the bougainvillea is often pruned to look like a shrub.



... but a Woody Climber

- Did you know that botanically speaking, the bougainvillea is not a shrub? It is actually a woody climber!
- If allowed to grow, the plant sends out long stems that climb up a suitable support. Its thorns help the stems to hook onto that support.



2. Singapore is the only country that...

- On 15 April 1981, Vanda Miss Joaquim was selected as Singapore's National Flower.
- This orchid originated from the garden of Agnes Joaquim, an Armenian lady residing in Singapore.



... has a hybrid as its National Flower

- It is the hybrid of two orchids, then known as *Vanda teres* and *Vanda hookeriana*.
- Research has since shown that the parents of Vanda Miss Joaquim should actually be in the genus *Papilionanthe*, instead of *Vanda*.
- Thus, the scientific name of our national flower is now *Papilionanthe Miss Joaquim*, but its common name remains as Vanda Miss Joaquim.
- Singapore is the only country to have a hybrid as a national flower.



3. The Tiger Orchid is the...

- The name “Tiger Orchid” is derived from the markings on the flower, which resemble a tiger's stripes.
- It is native to Singapore.



... largest Orchid in the World

- The Tiger Orchid is the largest orchid species in the world.
- It can grow up to a maximum height of 3 m, and a mature plant can weigh over a ton.



4. There's such a thing as a...

- The Pitcher Plant grows in nutrient-deficient soils. To make up for this, it has found an alternative way to get nutrients.
- It produces a sweet-smelling liquid at the bottom of its "cup" structure, which attracts insects.



... Carnivorous Plant

- Any unlucky insect which falls in will find it impossible to get out due to the slippery inner walls.
- The insect gradually drowns and becomes food for the plant.
- Pitcher Plants native to Singapore include the Narrow-lid Pitcher Plant and the Slender Pitcher Plant.



Narrow-lid Pitcher Plant



Slender Pitcher Plant

5. Rainbows can...

- Native to Papua New Guinea, the Rainbow Gum tree sheds patches of its outer bark at different times, showing the bright green inner bark which matures to give blue, purple, orange and then maroon tones.
- This gives rise to the distinctive peeling bark with multi-coloured streaks.



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... grow on Trees

- In Singapore, the Rainbow Gum tree can be found at Katong Park. It is a Heritage Tree.



Find Out More!

- All information and photos have been taken from Flora and Fauna Web.
- For more information on plants and animals in Singapore, check out Flora and Fauna Web, www.florafauanaweb.gov.sg.



The image shows a banner for the NParks Flora & Fauna Web website. The banner features a lush, green background with various plants, flowers, and animals, including a deer, a bird, and a butterfly. The text "NParks Flora & Fauna Web" is prominently displayed in the center. In the top left corner, the National Parks logo is visible, along with the tagline "LET'S MAKE SINGAPORE OUR GARDEN". In the top right corner, the Singapore Government logo is present, along with the text "Integrity • Service • Excellence" and links for "Feedback | Sitemap | Contact". At the bottom left, there are navigation links: "Home", "Site Info", "Dictionary", and "Useful Links". At the bottom right, there is a welcome message: "Welcome Guest. login if you are a member." and two buttons: "Login" and "Register".

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