Botanic Garden

Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG) holds a collection of over 8,000 plant species from all over the world to facilitate teaching and research. The Garden provides resources including plant material, horticultural expertise and facilities to research workers and lecturers.

Since its foundation, however, the Garden has also provided a beautiful place for everybody to enjoy and benefit from – a series of wonderful landscapes through which to discover the drama of plant diversity.

Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit Dementia Compass Website:
www.dementiacompass.com
Phone
07876 350 638
Email
hello@dementiacompass.com

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE MUSEUMS & BOTANIC GARDEN

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COMPASS

Why a garden walk?

Visiting a garden is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some exercise as you explore the plants.

How long will it take?

With time to stop and look, the walk should take you approximately 50 minutes.

How far is it?

It's approximately 600 steps.

Are there places to sit?

There are benches at regular intervals throughout the Garden and wheelchair accessible tables in most of the picnic areas.

What access support is there?

Manual Wheelchairs are available to borrow free of charge at both the Brookside Gate and Station Road Gate. These can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

There are accessible toilets behind the Glasshouses, in the Café, and at the Brookside Gate.

Trained assistance dogs are permitted to visit the Garden, when supporting a disabled handler.

Contact us:

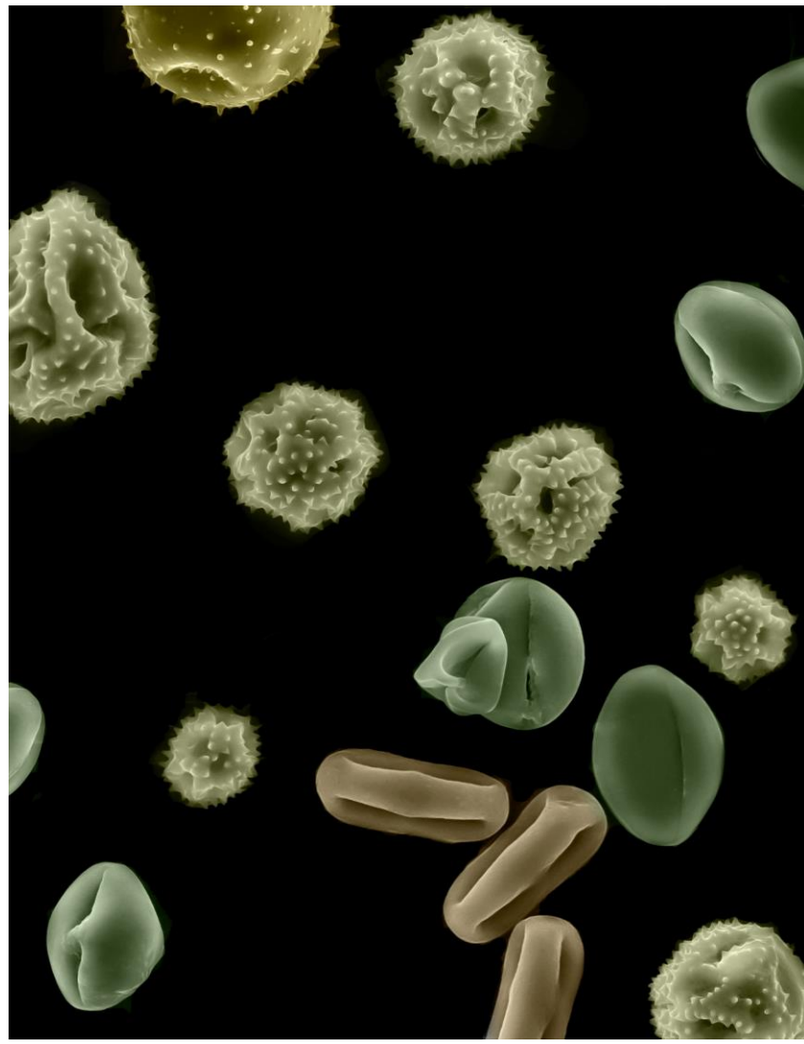
E. enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk
T. 01223 336265

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Garden Walk

Pollination stories

How plants reproduce



pollen grains under a microscope

Pollination happens when pollen moves from the male part of a flower (anther) to the female part (stigma) of another flower of the same kind. This process allows the plant to make seeds, often inside fruit.

Pollination can be carried out by insects, wind, birds, bats, or other animals. Each helps plants grow and reproduce.

Entrance



Banksia 1



Banksias are Australian plants that grow long flower spikes made up of hundreds of individual flowers.

These flowers are pollinated by tiny mammals called honey possums. Honey possums get most of their food from Banksia flowers using their specially adapted brush-tipped tongues. As they feed, pollen from the flowers collects on their snout which they then transfer to other Banksia flowers.

Bee Borders 2



Bees visit flowers for food – nectar provides energy whilst pollen provides proteins. Pollen sticks to the bees' body or is stored in sacs on their legs.

Flowers in the Bee Borders are blues and purples as bees can see these colours best. Some flowers also have patterned petals that guide bees to the right place for pollination. These are called nectar guides and can be spots, stripes or bullseye patterns.

Grasses 3



Grass pollen is wind-dispersed, so grasses don't need colourful or scented flowers to attract insects. Their small flowers often lack petals.

To boost pollination chances, grasses produce lots of pollen. Female parts are long and feathery to catch it, while male parts sit on extended stalks that help release pollen into the air.

Bee orchid 4



There are nearly 30000 species of orchid, some of which have evolved to attract a single species of pollinator.

The bee orchid uses mimicry to attract its pollinator. Bee orchid flowers have a large lip-shaped petal that looks very similar to the female of a solitary bee species. Pollen sticks to male solitary bees as they attempt to mate with the flower.