



Mission: Plant-Possible

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find all of the different plant species below located around your Akron Zoo. Bring your completed scavenger hunt form to the office located in the Barnhardt Family Welcome Center and receive your passport stamp. Return each season to complete the next mission and fill your passport book to be entered into a drawing! The more stamps you have, the more chances you have to win a prize!

1. This mission begins where it ends...Found in the jungles of Southeast Asia, this lush, green, elongated leafed plant lives in varying water levels, even submerged, making it a true aquatic plant. If it remains moist, it can even live on rocks or other plants as an epiphyte. This plant is also adaptable to many light conditions and is used extensively by aquarium hobbyists.

Location: Welcome Center _____

2. This house plant has lustrous leaves of varying shades of light to dark green and smooth light grey to tannish bark. Some branches appear to be weeping in habit, while others are upright. This plant is native to Asia and Australia, where it can reach heights of nearly a hundred feet. They send down aerial roots that reach all the way down the ground, forming stems eventually creating massive stands.

Location: Welcome Center _____

3. Native to tropical Africa, this plant usually grows as a slow growing multi stem shrub. Some species can reach 49 feet tall and each stem can reach 12 inch in diameter. Although used mostly for indoor houseplants, natively they can produce beautiful pompom looking flowers and golden colored berries. Mostly growing erect, in forest settings these stems can grow horizontal branches after flowering.

Location: Welcome Center _____

4. This prehistoric looking plant is another that is native to Brazil and South America, however, some are growing naturally all over the world, usually in tropic to sub-tropic regions. These plants climb trees up to the canopy, sometimes to the detriment of the tree it strangles. They come in all sorts of shapes and colors, with some businesses crossbreeding species together to make the most unique. Some favorites include the "Florida Ghost" or "Ring of Fire."

Location: Welcome Center _____

5. A house plant that produces white, fragrant flowers throughout the year. They are native to central and south America. The dark green oval leaves of this plant arise directly from the soil. It is native to central and South America, but commonly used as a house plant here in Ohio. If in the right conditions, it will produce white, fragrant flowers throughout the year. It gets its name from the color and shape of the flower; it resembles a white flag that people associate with a cease fire and peace.

Location: Welcome Center

6. Although they are not parasitic, they will anchor themselves to other plants. The leaves are covered in trichomes, which are specialized grey, scale-like structures that trap moisture and dust from the surrounding atmosphere. Trichomes, as well as occasional watering, is how these plants get the water and nutrients they need to live. They only flower once in their lifetime, but the bloom can last for weeks. Once they bloom, the plant's dying process begins, but new plants will emerge from the base of the mother plant.

Location: Lemur Building

7. This species of alocasia is not derived from nature, in fact, it was bred in a green house in Florida. It is a hybrid of two alocasia species; watsoniana and sanderiana. Although it is not common, they can grow small, pale flowers. They are best known for their attractive leaves which are dark green with vibrant, light green venation.

Location: Lemur Building

8. This shade-tolerant plant is adaptable to many site conditions. Its canes can grow up to 10 feet in ideal conditions, but it is much smaller in less-than-ideal conditions. In comparison to other members of its species, it has much larger leaves. In ideal conditions, the leaves can reach twenty-five inches in length and five inches wide. In Asia, where this plant is native, the leaves are used in cooking, by wrapping food in them and steaming it.

Location: Legends of the Wild

9. A plant that stands out due to the vibrant yellow spots on glossy, green, elliptical leaves. They require a little more care due to their need for moist soil with a high organic matter content. These plants are dioecious, meaning they have female and male flowers on separate plants. If planted near each other, the female plants can produce bright red fruits.

Location: Bat Building

10. An evergreen tree with long, elliptical leaves that are smooth and dark green on the top and brown and fuzzy on the bottom. During the winter you may see large, brown, cone-like seed pods on the trees as well as the ground around them. When these pods open, red seeds will be inside of them. In the spring, the trees will produce large, white, fragrant flowers.

Location: Legends of the Wild _____

11. Native to Brazil and surrounding South American countries, this plant produces long slender light green leaves with dark patches on each leaf. In addition to the ornate topside of these leaves, the underside usually boasts a purple to deep red/ burgundy color. Usually sold as a houseplant, it is somewhat finicky to care for because of its specific humidity requirements. When it is happy and thriving, it will grow to around 2 feet tall and produce a small yellow flower.

Location: Komodo Kingdom _____

12. This plant is commonly used in aquarium settings and are quite popular due to its free-flowing movement and rapid growth. It can be free-floating but is more commonly attached to rocks and logs to increase the visual ascetic of an aquascape. Native to Asia, this is a great beginner aquatic plant due to its ability to tolerate many different environmental conditions; including lowlight, pH deficiency, brackish water, and temperature changes.

Locations: Curious Creatures _____

13. Originating in South America in its natural form, this plant has since been highly hybridized by plant breeding to create many leaf shapes, and sizes, with colors ranging from green, white, pink, red and varying hues in between. The basic form of this plant is a petiole which rises from the ground leading to a single heart-shaped leaf. There are no stems or branching with this plant. However, don't let its simplicity fool you, this plant adds quite an impact.

Location: Curious Creatures _____

14. A stemless plant with overlapping leaves that can produce bright red, orange, purple or blue flowers. Most of these species are considered epiphytic, meaning they do not need soil to live. In their natural habitats, they get their nutrients and water from the air. At home, watering is required either onto the soil and roots or you can partially fill up the cupped rosettes on the leaves. They only flower once in their lifetime, but the bloom is large, vibrant, and colorful. Since the leaves overlap and produce cups, they can collect rain, leaves, and debris; creating mini ecosystems.

Location: Curious Creatures _____

15. Belonging to a class of plants called pitcher plants, this plant is distinguishably sinister, with red-speckled pitchers rimmed with many long-blackened teeth. Like other pitcher plants, it survives in a nutrient deprived environment by trapping its prey, slowly dissolving it in digestive enzymes, and up taking its nutrients for its own.

Location: Curious Creatures _____

