

How does your garden grow?

Plants and animals depend on each other for their survival and flowering plants play a key role in this close relationship. This text will explain why plants develop features specifically to attract animals.

Firstly, given the right conditions, seeds *germinate* and grow into new plants. Those plants grow flowers **in order to** attract bees and other *pollinators* with their scent and colour.

Flowers produce sweet liquid called *nectar*, which provides food for bees. They also have *pollen* on the end of thin strands called *filaments* **so that** bees rub against them when they land. **Once** the bees have taken their reward of nectar, they fly off to another flower with the pollen on their backs. **As a result** pollen is carried from one flower to another.

Next, the pollen is rubbed onto the *stigma* of the new plant and travels into the *ovary*. **This results in** *fertilisation* and new seeds or nuts are formed. These provide an excellent food source for animals **so** they are soon eaten by birds or small animals like squirrels. **Consequently**, the seeds are *dispersed* as the animal moves and **eventually** they are deposited in the animal's droppings.

Finally, given the right conditions, these seeds germinate and the whole process begins again.

Now you know how plants and animals work together. Without these plants the animals would have no food and without the animals, especially the bees, new plants can't be made. So those flowers aren't just pretty: they are a vital part in the circle of life.