

Most Spreading Plant

The greatest area covered by a single clonal growth is that of the wild box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachyera*), a mat-forming evergreen shrub first reported in 1796. A colony covering 8 acres was discovered in 1845 near New Bloomfield, Pa. Another colony, covering about 100 acres, was "discovered" on July 18, 1920, near the Juniata River in Pa. It has been estimated that this colony began 13,000 years ago.

Largest Cactus

The largest of all cacti is the saguaro (*Cereus giganteus* or *Carnegiea gigantea*), found in Ariz, southeastern Calif, and Sonora, Mexico.

The tallest specimen known is 57 ft 11¼ in tall. Located in the Maricopa Mts 11 mi east of Gila Bend, Ariz, it was discovered and measured on Jan 17, 1988 by J.D. and R.M. Fairfield, and R.N. and D.J. Wells.

An armless cactus 78 ft in height was measured in 1978 by Hube Yates in Cave Creek, Ariz. It was toppled in a windstorm in July 1986 at an estimated age of 150 years.

Largest Blooms

The mottled orange-brown and white parasitic stinking corpse lily (*Rafflesia arnoldi*) has the largest of all blooms. These attach themselves to the cissus vines of the jungle in southeast Asia. They measure up to 3 ft across and ¾ in thick, and attain a weight of 15 lb.

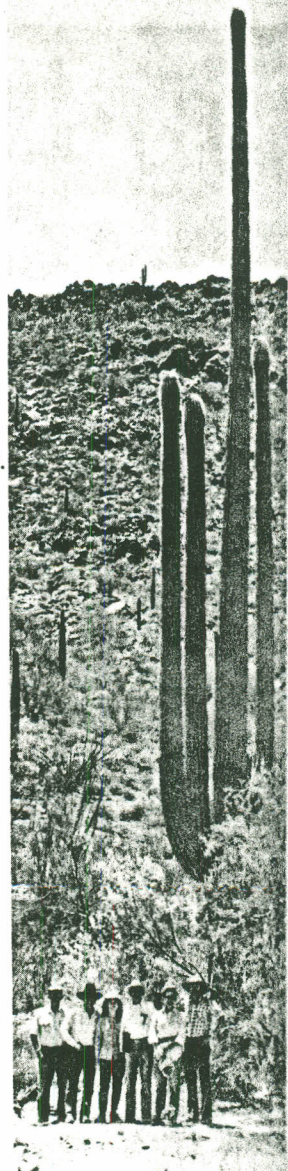
The spathe and spadix of the less massive green and purple flower of *Amorphophallies titanum* of Sumatra may attain a length of 5 ft.



RAREST PLANT: This is probably the sole surviving specimen of the lady's-slipper orchid, found in May, 1983. (Bruce Coleman)

TALLEST CACTUS:

Standing 57 ft 11 in high, this saguaro in Ariz was just discovered in Jan 1988. Note size of the discoverers below. (Dennis J. Wells, Phoenix)



Most Valuable Flower

The \$10,000 prize offered by the Burpee Co. in 1954 for producing the first all-white marigold was won on Aug 12, 1975 by Alice Vonk of Sully, Iowa.

Smallest Plants

The smallest flowering plant is the floating aquatic duckweed *Wolffia angusta* which is only 1/42nd of an inch in length and 1/85th of an inch in width. It weighs 1/190th of an oz; its fruit, resembling a minuscule fig, weighs 400,000 to the oz.

The smallest "plant" is a unicellular alga and is classified under *Protista*.