

Celebrating Life: Plant Sex

By Korina Buehrer

How does an essential oil actually form? Let's talk about plant sex for a minute! I hope it doesn't offend you, because plant sex is vital to our planet's existence! You and I are part of the fertility process and I'll explain how.

Plants that reproduce sexually are known as flowering plants. They have two distinct sex cells. Male sex cells are in the pollen, and female sex cells are in the ovaries. The start to an essential oil's life begins with these two.

How does the plant actually "do it," resulting in the production of essential oils? Let's dive in.

Over the summer the sweet-smelling plants are so irresistible you pluck the bloom right from it, lifting the intoxicating smell close to your nose, taking in the aroma, ohhhhh it is SO good.

Guess what? This innocent pluck dismembered the reproductive organs of the plant. It's ok, there's plenty of plant love in the works.

The "male" portion of the flower is the pollen-loaded stamen. The reproductive parts have fancy names like gametophytes. Pollen is grown in the

anther, which is found in the exterior of the flower. Tube cells in the anther become pollen tubes, which then burst open with pollen. Pollen can't move on its own so Mother Nature gets her matchmaking on by using wind, animals, you, me, and water, to carry the male sex cell, pollen, to a sticky female part of the plant called the stigma.

The female gametophytes for flower plants are the ovules, and they are located in the ovaries. Much like the male sex cell, pollen, the ovules are produced through meiosis and they contain half of the plant's genetic code.

Some flowers only have female or male sex cells, while others have both gametophytes. Hermaphroditic plants are not uncommon. The egg-holding pistil is the "female" part of the plant, the ovaries. The ovaries make up the gynoecium, the outward feature of the flower. It's made up of the stigma and style along with the ovaries. This three part unit is called the pistil or carpal. The interconnected system creates a tube for the pollen to work its way down to its prize, its flower mama, the ovaries! This intricate design of the carpal/stigma is to protect the ovaries from external elements.

Eventually, the pollen grains bump into some eggs, and viola, little baby seeds are born! This begins the journey of a new life form, a baby plant, and ultimately precious essential oils.

Brilliantly designed plants replicate the human body's physiological makeup. It's truly awe provoking. Our systems have uncanny similarities. The next article will dive into the basics of plant chemistry, the birth of a new plant, helping our readers understand where essential oils come from and why they work effectively within the human body.

Korina Buehrer is the CEO of Celebrating Life, Inc. For more information visit her website www.mydoterra.com/korinab.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Cemetery Caretaker
Location/Department: Vernonia Memorial Cemetery
Hourly Wage: \$15

Description: This is a part-time position (avg 15 hrs/wk) with benefits that include retirement and paid sick leave. Weekly hours will vary dependent upon seasonal conditions and work load. This position is non-exempt, non-union. Position will include all duties necessary to maintain the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery under the direction of the Cemetery Manager and Cemetery Clerk. Job duties include, but are not limited to, mowing and basic landscaping, trimming of trees and bushes, leaf collection, placing of headstones, cleaning headstones and special projects as directed. Duties also include assisting in interments such as setting up for service and interment for urn burials and marking of graves for casket burials. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, possess good communication skills, take pride in the appearance of the cemetery, have the ability to take direction and be willing to work flexible hours. This is a physically demanding position and requires occasional weekend shifts for interments. Please visit our website at vernonia-or.gov for full job description. **Interested applicants should forward application cover letter & resume to:** Angie Handegard at City Hall or financial@vernonia-or.gov
Application Deadline: May 23, 2019 3:00 pm

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Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for June 13 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue on June 6.

Church Directory

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday Schedule:
Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 am
Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 am
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 pm
Roger Cook, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151

Grace Family Fellowship
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Thursday Prayer: 6:00 pm

Greg "Mac" McCallum, Pastor
957 State Avenue
503-429-6790

Nehalem Valley Bible Church
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Tues. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 am
Wednesday Service: 7:00 pm
Sat. Men's Prayer Meeting: 6:30 am
Gary Taylor, Pastor
500 North Street
503-429-5378

Open Door Gathering Place
Service: Sunday 6:00 pm
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street
503-702-3553

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday Mass: 12:00 pm
Fr. Josh Clifton, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue
503-429-8841

Vernonia Christian Church
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service in Youth &

Family Center: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org
Sam Hough, Pastor
410 North Street
503-429-6522

Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Sabbath (Saturday) Services
Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am
www.VernoniaSDAC.org
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Avenue and Nehalem Street
503-429-8301