

1 SCARLET SPIRAL FLAG

Costus spiralis



- ◆ Used by native people to stop bleeding.
- ◆ It is also used to relieve coughs, treat eye irritation, stop nose bleeds and relieve stomach aches.
- ◆ Native to South America.

2 LIPSTICK TREE

Bixa orellana



- ◆ Used as a dye for coloring fabrics and body paint.
- ◆ Used as an ointment to treat skin and eye problems.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.

WARNING:

Do not attempt to make your own products from the plants described here. These plants can be **DANGEROUS!** The native people of the rain forests have developed special skills to prepare and use these plants.

NATURE'S PHARMACY

About 25% of our medicines contain active ingredients derived from rain forest plants, including medicines that treat cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure.

The rain forests are also major sources for products we use everyday, such as rubber, resins, waxes, essential oils, gums, latex, lubricants, as well as nuts, fruits and spices.



■ Rain forests of the world

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Rain forests cover about 2% of the Earth's surface, yet contain 50-90% of the world's species of animal and plant life. Every year, 750 million acres of rain forest are being destroyed.

You can help!

Join the Cleveland Zoological Society.

May be reproduced for educational purposes only.
Conservation Education
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
3900 Wildlife Way
Cleveland OH 44107
216.635.3391

CLEVELAND
METROPARKS

ZOO



HEALING PLANTS

from the World's

RAIN FORESTS

"In the end, the greatest value of the tropical rain forest is its genetic stock, and the enormous potential value it holds for generations to come."

~ Dr. Thomas Covejoy

MEDICINE TRAIL

PLEASE do not pick any parts of the plants in this exhibit.

February 2021



The RainForest
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

3 PIMENTO *Pimenta dioica*



- ◆ Also known as "allspice" it is the only major spice grown totally in the western hemisphere.
- ◆ It is used to treat fungal infections.
- ◆ Native to Central America.

6 SWISS CHEESE PLANT *Monstera deliciosa*



- ◆ Its fruit is edible and tastes like banana and pineapple combined.
- ◆ The root is used to make a remedy for snakebites. A root infusion can be drunk daily for arthritis.
- ◆ Native to Central America.

9 DUMBCANE *Dieffenbachia seguine*



- ◆ Its poisonous leaves are used by native people to stun or kill fish.
- ◆ The juice from its crushed leaves is used to remove parasites.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.

4 BIRD'S NEST *Authurium crassinervium*



- ◆ Used by native people as an ear wash for fungal infections.
- ◆ The powdered root is used for insect bites and sores.
- ◆ Native from Mexico to Venezuela.

7 FIREBUSH *Hamelia patens*



- ◆ A tea made from the leaves kills parasites.
- ◆ It has an edible fruit.
- ◆ Its leaves are also used to relieve dysentery, rheumatism and scurvy.

10 VANILLA *Vanilla planifolia*



- ◆ This plant is grown in some regions for its pleasant odor.
- ◆ Used mainly to make perfumes and spices.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.

5 ARROWHEAD VINE *Syngonium podophyllum*



- ◆ Used by native people to relieve the sting of the bullet ant. It also treats sores, dry skin, fungus, itching, bruised and rashes.
- ◆ Native from Mexico to Bolivia.

8 BUTTERFLY LILY *Hedychium coronarium*



- ◆ This plant is used to relieve chest and arm pains.
- ◆ The leaves are used in a tea that relieves belly aches.
- ◆ Native to tropical Asia.

11 PINEAPPLE *Ananas comosus*



- ◆ Known to the natives as "chi-na."
- ◆ Used by native people to induce abortion in early pregnancy.
- ◆ It is believed to combat intestinal gas.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.