

Plant Adaptations

IN the quiet eastern corner of the Conservatory, changing exhibits focus on the ingenious ways in which plants are able to get what they need to survive. All the plants in a display share a specific survival adaptation. This exhibit highlights plants that form beneficial relationships with either fungi or bacteria.



(ABOVE AND LEFT)

PINK POWDER PUFF
(*Calliandra emarginata*).

Legumes, like this pink powder puff, provide housing for nitrogen-fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium*). After colonization, sites along the roots develop into nodules that protect the growing bacterial colony. In return, bacteria make available atmospheric nitrogen, a vital nutrient for the plant.