

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 AFRICAN OIL PALM

Elaeis guineensis



- ◆ This plant is a source of oil for cooking and other products such as soap.
- ◆ It is a source of Vitamin A and E.
- ◆ Native to Africa.

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



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.

April 2020



The Rain Forest
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 its leaves can kill parasites.
- ◆ Its leaves are also used to relieve dysentery, rheumatism and scurvy.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.

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, bruises 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.”
- ◆ It is believed to combat intestinal gas.
- ◆ Native to tropical Americas.