

Pollination

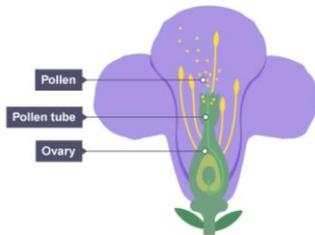
During plant reproduction, pollen grains need to move from the anther of one flower to the stigma of another flower. This is called pollination. Pollination can occur by either insects or the wind.



Feature	Insect-pollinated	Wind-pollinated
Petals	Large and brightly-coloured – to attract insects	Small, often dull green or brown – no need to attract insects
Scent and nectar	Usually scented and with nectar – to attract insects	No scent or nectar – no need to attract insects
Number of pollen grains	Moderate - insects transfer pollen grains efficiently	Large amounts – most pollen grains are not transferred to another flower
Pollen grains	Sticky or spiky - sticks to insects well	Smooth and light – easily carried by the wind without clumping together
Anthers	Inside flower, stiff and firmly attached - to brush against insects	Outside flower, loose on long filaments – to release pollen grains easily
Stigma	Inside flower, sticky - pollen grains stick to it when an insect brushes past	Outside flower, feathery – form a network to catch drifting pollen grains

Fertilisation

After pollination the pollen makes a pollen tube down the style to the ovary. The nucleus of the pollen cell travels down the tube to the ovum – when the cell join, this is fertilisation. The cell made when the pollen and ovum fuse will become the seed, which can become a new plant. Plants then form fruits, often from the ovary walls.



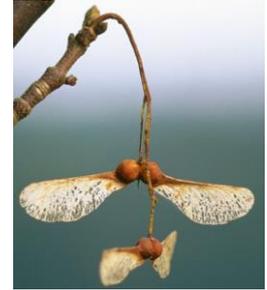
Further Reading:



Seed Dispersal

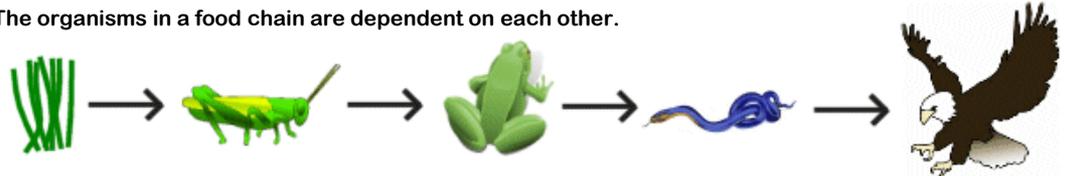
Plants compete with each other for factors including light, water, space, minerals in the soil. Seeds must be dispersed or spread away from each other and from the parent plant. This is to reduce competition between parent plant and new plants.

Method	Detail	Examples
Wind	Seeds have lightweight parts, wings or parachutes	Dandelion, sycamore
Animals (inside)	Brightly coloured and tasty fruits contain seeds with indigestible coats, so that the seeds pass through the animal's digestive system undamaged	Tomato, plum, raspberry, grape
Animals (outside)	Fruits have hooks that attach them to the fur of passing animals	Goose grass, burdock
Self-propelled	Have a pod that bursts open when ripe, throwing the seeds away from the plant	Pea pod



Food Webs & Interdependence

The organisms in a food chain are dependent on each other.

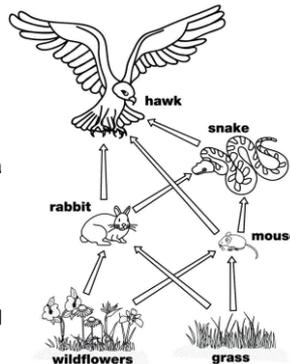


For example, grass is eaten by the caterpillar, which is eaten by the frog, which is eaten by the snake, which in turn is hunted by the bird.

The grass is the producer in this food chain, and producers are at the start of all food chains. The grass captures the energy from the sunlight to photosynthesise and make glucose. The glucose provides energy for the grass to grow. When the caterpillar eats the grass, some of the energy left in the grass is transferred to the caterpillar. This energy is passed down the food chain.

Changes in the number of one organism in an area – its population can affect other organisms in the same food chain.

The number of plants in an area can be affected by the amount of rain, sunlight, minerals and space available to grow. The number of animals can be affected by the availability of food habitats, mates, water and disease.



If the population of mice caught a disease, then there would be more competition between the Hawk and Snake to catch the Rabbit. This could then cause the number of Rabbits to decrease.