

Expt: 6 Flowers adapted to pollination by different agencies

Wind Pollination (Anemophily)

Identification:

The given specimen is a wind pollinated flower

Features of wind pollinated flowers:

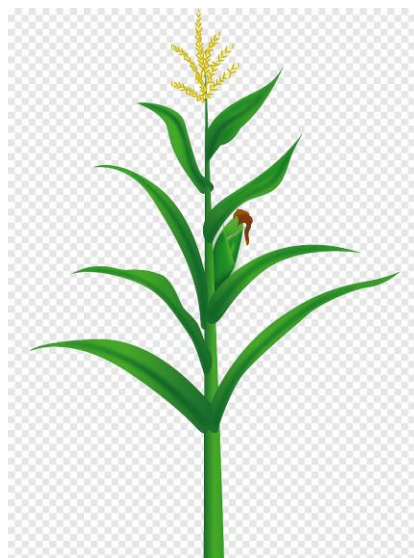
The wind pollinated flowers are colourless, nectarless, large and stigma are feathery to easily trap air-borne pollen grains.

The flowers are numerous, packed into an inflorescence and have a single ovule in each ovary

They possess well-exposed stamens (so that the pollens are easily dispersed into wind currents).

The pollen grains are small, powdery, light and non-sticky so that they can be transported in wind currents.

A familiar example is the corn cob the tassels are the stigma and style which wave in the wind to trap pollen grains.



Maize

Pollination by insects (Entomophily)

Identification:

The given specimen is an insect pollinated flower

Features of insect pollinated flowers:

Insect-pollinated flowers are large, colourful, fragrant and rich in nectar.

When the flowers are small, a number of flowers are clustered into an inflorescence to make them conspicuous.

Animals are attracted to the flowers by colour or fragrance.

The flowers provide rewards to the insects in the form of nectar and pollen grains.

Wind-pollination is quite common in grasses.

Bees, butterflies, beetles, and flies are the most common pollinators for this sort of pollination.

This process mostly takes place in angiosperms.

The flowers have pollen grains in a small amount.

The pollen has a rough surface that makes it easy for it to attach to insect limbs when they visit flowers in search of nectar.

Example Sunflower, Yucca.



Sunflower

Pollination by birds (Ornithophily)

Identification:

The given specimen is a bird pollinated flower

Features of bird pollinated flowers:

Birds seek energy rich nectar by visiting flowers

Most flowers pollinated by birds have nectar hidden deep inside the flower

The pollen sticks to the bird's head/ neck and back when it tries to reach the nectar

Birds transfer these pollens when visiting other plants.

Hummingbirds and honey thrushes are little birds that feed on flower nectar.

Such flowers do not have many pollen grains.

In this type of pollination, the pollen grains get attached to the beaks and mouths of pollinators and get transferred to other flowers.

Examples; *Bombax* (red silk cotton), *Erythrina* (Coral tree).



Erythrina (Coral tree)
