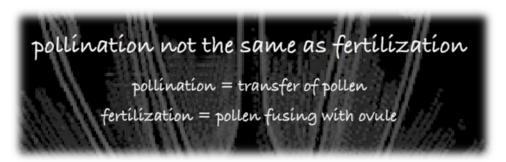
With pollination complete, the pollen germinates and forms pollen tubes that grow down the style to the ovule. Fertilization occurs when a sperm cell from the pollen tube fuses with an egg cell in the ovule.



It is important here to highlight that **pollination is not fertilization** and **fertilization is not pollination**. Remember, pollination is the transfer of pollen from flower to flower, whereas fertilization only occurs if and when pollen makes it down the style and fuses with the ovule.



When fertilization occurs, the flower will begin to wither and the **ovules** grow and grow and eventually develop into **seeds**. At the same time, the **ovary** begins to fatten to become the **fruit**.



The function of the **fleshy fruit is to protect the seeds** inside. The fruits will eventually get eaten by other animals, which help in distributing the seeds away from the parent plant.



However, not all flowers will develop into fruit. In flowers where pollination does not occur, the flowers will wilt and eventually fall off the plant.







wilted flower

You should now have a good understanding of plant pollination and reproduction.