

## How Does One Plant Reproduce?

Many kinds of plants do not need two parent plants to reproduce. They can create new plants from pieces of their stems, leaves, or roots. Because the new plants grow from the cells of only one parent plant, each new plant has the same genetic information as its parents and every other new plant.

Some plants have special stems that grow beneath the ground. These stems grow away from the parent plant in all directions. **Shoots** grow from special places on these stems called **buds**. The shoots grow into new stems and leaves. Many grasses grow as shoots from stems on a parent plant.

Some stems are thick on their ends. These thick parts are called **tubers**. When the parent plant dies, the tuber grows into a new plant. The white potato is a tuber. Have you ever noticed a potato's small "eyes"? These potato eyes are buds that will grow new stems and leaves.

Lilies and onions grow from **bulbs**. Bulbs are short pieces of stem wrapped in special leaves. Bulbs make new, smaller daughter bulbs that grow into new plants when the parent bulb dies.

Strawberry plants make runners. Runners are stems that grow on top of the ground and away from the parent plant. Buds form along the runners and make new plants that form their own roots. Crabgrass grows this way, too.

When a plant reproduces without the help of another plant, it is able to make many new plants in a short time. Although this kind of reproduction is good because it happens quickly, a plant born from one parent has the same genetic information as its parents. This makes it harder for the plant to adapt to sudden changes in its environment.



Onions grow from bulbs, which are short pieces of stem wrapped in special leaves.



Strawberry plants make runners that grow on top of the ground.



**A.**

Write the missing word or words in each sentence.

1. A single parent plant can make new plants from pieces of its \_\_\_\_\_.  
(cells, stems, organelles)
2. The genetic information of new plants that grow from one parent is \_\_\_\_\_ the parent.  
(different from, adapted to, the same as)
3. Stems and leaves that grow from buds are called \_\_\_\_\_.  
(bulbs, runners, shoots)
4. The "eyes" on a white potato are \_\_\_\_\_.  
(buds, shoots, bulbs)
5. A special stem that grows on top of the ground and helps a plant make new plants is called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(shoot, runner, bud)

**B.**

Draw a line from each kind of stem to a plant that grows from the stem.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. tuber  | strawberry |
| 2. bulb   | potato     |
| 3. runner | onion      |

**C.**

Write one or more sentences to answer the question.

People often plant Bermuda grass in their yards by using small clumps of grass called plugs. They plant plugs a few inches apart. Why is it possible to grow a lawn in this way?

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