

## "Ants" – Reading

Some ants act like partners with plants. The best-known partnership is with some kinds of acacia trees.

These "ant" acacias have hollow thorns in which the ants live. The ants patrol the trees, ready to attack whatever creatures land there.

Ants protect acacias from other plants, too. They chew up vines that try to climb the acacia trees. And they may even keep all other plants trimmed back for several feet around.

In return for their protection, the ants get food as well as a place to live. They eat special pods that grow on the acacia's leaves. They also drink nectar produced in special glands at the base of the leaves.

