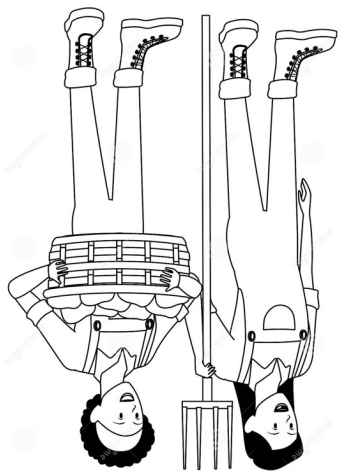


Plant breeders can create plants whose seeds do not jump or fly away, and that are easier to harvest and consume.

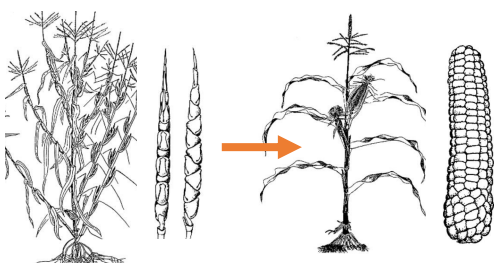


Wild rice (*Oryza*) has seeds that 'jump' away from the plant. This is called 'seed shattering'. Domesticated rice Wild rice

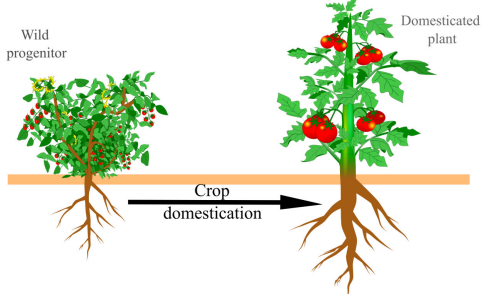


Examples of plant domestication performed by plant breeders include:

Teosinte to maize

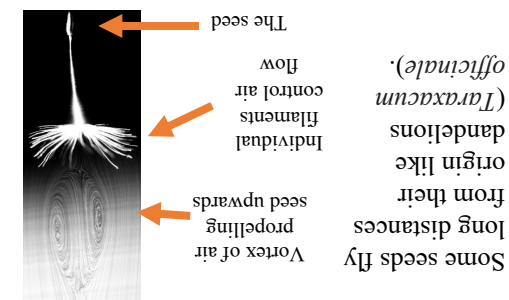
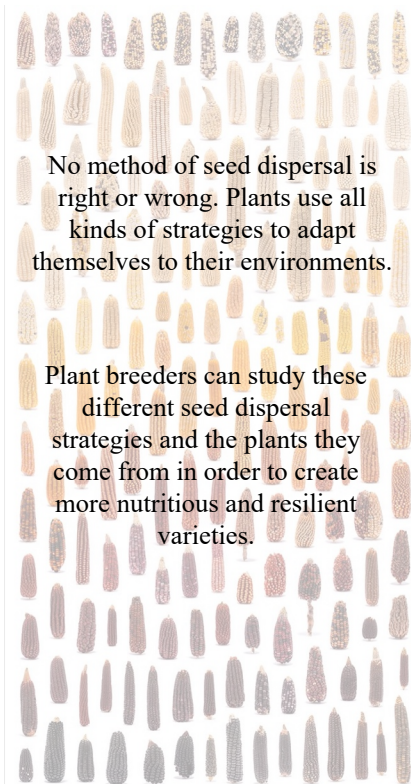


Wild tomatoes to modern tomatoes



No method of seed dispersal is right or wrong. Plants use all kinds of strategies to adapt themselves to their environments.

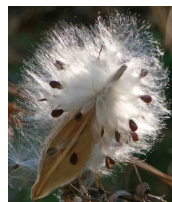
Plant breeders can study these different seed dispersal strategies and the plants they come from in order to create more nutritious and resilient varieties.



This spring and summer, keep an eye out for plants that use these different seed dispersal strategies!



Cottonwood trees



Milkweed

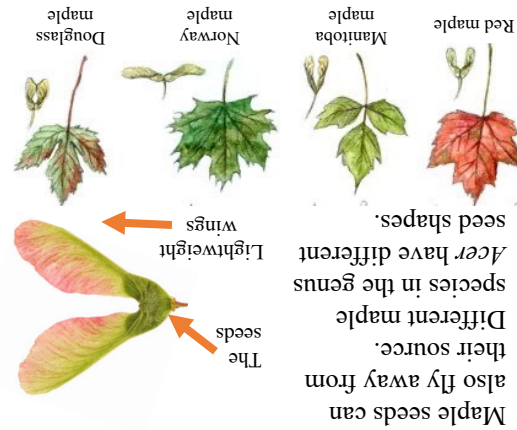


Rice

Corn

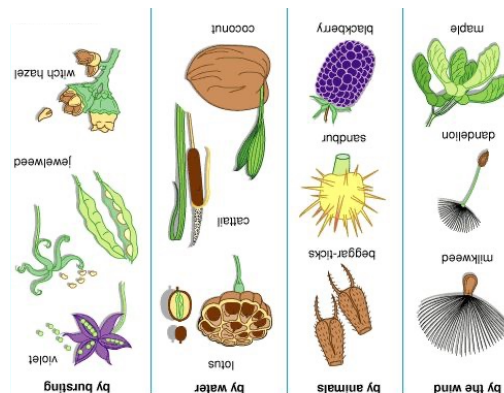


Maple trees



Plants can utilize many different strategies to disperse their seeds.

...and by humans like cherries, wheat, or beans.



Plant Domestication and Adaptation: A Seed Dispersal Game

Key Takeaways



Have follow-up questions? Contact:

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