



Reproduction in Plants

Plants can reproduce both sexually and asexually. The growth of several shoots at the base of a tree, such as a mature lilac, is an example of asexual reproduction. In the spring, this tree also grows many flowers that will produce seeds. This is an example of sexual reproduction. The lilac therefore uses both forms of reproduction (see Figure 20).

Asexual Reproduction

Many plant species can reproduce from a part of their own organism, such as a root, a stem or even a leaf.

Duckweed provides a good example of frond multiplication. These tiny plants (from 4 mm to 5 mm) float on the surface of ponds. Each duckweed frond produces a frond that matures and then detaches to form a new plant. Duckweed can cover the entire surface of a pond after only a few weeks (see Figure 21).



Figure 21 Duckweed multiplies by growing new fronds.

Figure 22 shows how a plant can use its stems for asexual reproduction. This is the form of reproduction of the wild strawberry. When its stems arch over and touch the ground, they begin to take root. New stems and new leaves eventually emerge to form a new strawberry plant that is identical to the first one.

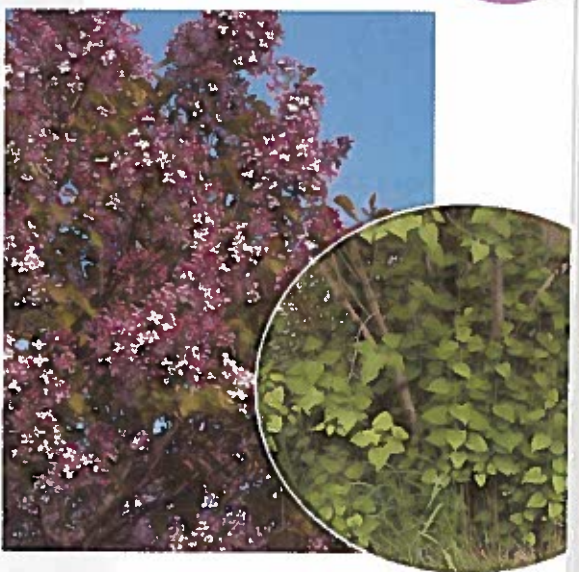
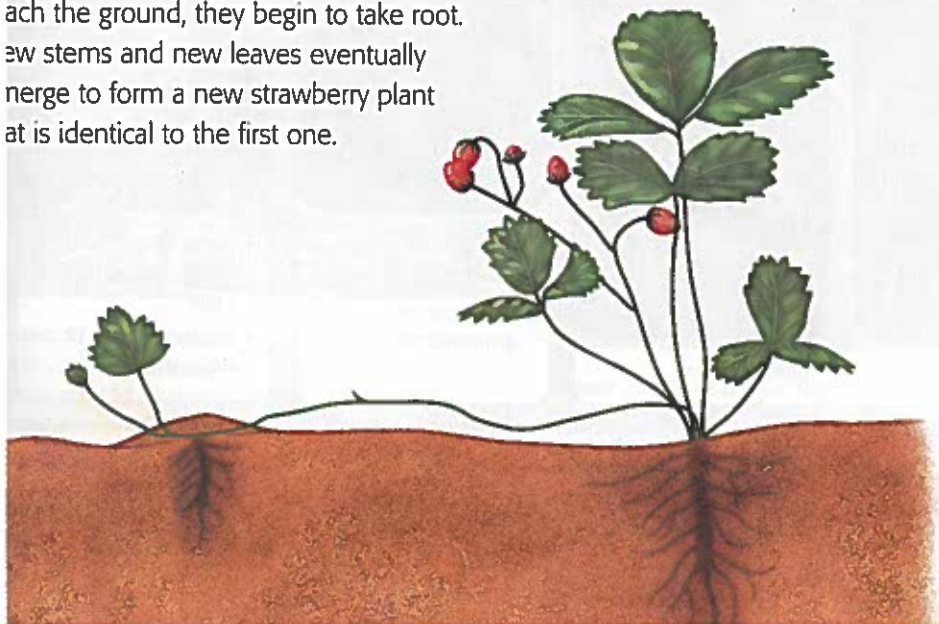


Figure 20 A lilac tree can reproduce both asexually (new shoots at its base) and sexually (flowers).

Figure 22 Strawberry plants can use their stems to reproduce.