

Did you know?

- All councils in England and Wales (except Inner London) have to provide allotments to local people. The recommended provision is 15 allotments per 1000 households.
- Allotments cost from £6 to £50 per year.
- Councils provide allotment holders with a list of rules which prohibit barbed wire, bonfires, animals (apart from bees and chickens), buildings (except cold frames), ponds and obstructions on paths.
- During the 1600s, in Holland, tulip bulbs were worth more than gold!
- Once cut, tulips can continue to grow as much as an inch per day.
- Avocados, tomatoes and pumpkins are actually fruits, not vegetables, because they contain seeds. Rhubarb, on the other hand, is a vegetable!
- The word 'pineapple' comes from European explorers who thought the fruit looked like a pine cone with the flesh of an apple.
- Saffron threads, used as a flavouring and colouring in cooking, are actually the stigmas of a type of crocus (*Crocus sativus*). Each crocus produces only three stigmas, and it takes up to 170,000 individual flowers to make a kilo of saffron!
- Iris means 'rainbow' in Greek; Iris was the goddess of the rainbow in Greek mythology.
- Snapdragon flowers are so called as they resemble a dragon. If you squeeze the sides, the dragon's mouth appears to open and close!
- Genetic testing has shown that all potatoes derive from a single source. The first potatoes were cultivated in Peru about 7000–10,000 years ago.
- The main difference between a nectarine and a peach is that nectarines have smooth skins, while peach skins are fuzzy. You can graft peach branches onto a nectarine tree so that it produces both types of fruit!
- An individual strawberry has up to 200 seeds on its outer skin.