

## PLANTS ABOUT US

### PLANTS WITH TWO WAYS OF GROWING

Now that the rainy season is here, you will want to plant anew in your little garden at home if perhaps only to increase your sampaguitas and dama de noche or to make camote leaves climb somewhere in the backyard to help humbly the supply of your mother's vegetables.

Of course you all know that many plants can grow only from seeds. Many plants, however, can grow from seeds and also in other ways. Let us see what some of these plants are.

Plants that belong to the Lily Family can grow from seeds as other plants can. Another way lilies can grow is from *bulbs*. A bulb is a thick somewhat ball-shaped, underground part to which the roots are attached. It has layers that fit snugly together one outside another. At first a lily plant has only one bulb, but after a while smaller bulbs form near the first one. These bulbs can be taken off and set in the ground, and will grow into lily plants that will blossom and have seeds and bulbs of their own. One very common relative of the lilies is grown for food. Did you know that when you eat an *onion* you eat the bulb of a plant that belongs to the Lily Family?

The underground stems of some plants are thickened into parts we call *tubers*. A tuber is one solid piece and not in layers. On the surface are *buds*, which we sometimes call *eyes*.

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## PLANTS WITH TWO

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The tubers you know best of all is a potato. A potato plant can be grown from a seed, but that is not the common way of doing it. Before a farmer plants a potato he cuts the tubers into pieces, leaving at least one bud to each piece. In this way he gets several plants from one tuber because each bud can grow into a whole plant with leaves and blossoms and tubers and roots of its own.

Some plants are started by cutting off a piece of stem from an old one and putting it in water. Such a piece is spoken of as a *slip*. After a slip has been in water for some time, roots begin to grow on it. Then it can be set out in earth. By means of slips we plant roses, the rosal, the dama de noche, the sampaguita and other decorative plants at home. Can you name others? Certain trees can be grown this way as the cacao. Plants like the banana have young shoots that appear around the mother tree. These are the ones transplanted when one wishes to start a new group of trees.

Tell in what way or ways may these plants be grown:

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. gumamela    | 6. sugar cane          |
| 2. ubi         | 7. bogainvilla         |
| 3. spider-lily | 8. San Francisco plant |
| 4. ginger      | 9. gabi                |
| 5. guava       | 10. four-o'clock plant |