

# Some wonderful methods of Seed Dispersal

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Plants have devised methods of transporting the seeds to faraway (from metres to kilometres) locations. These methods are known as seed dispersal. The commonest and most well-known method of seed dispersal known to us is how plants produce delicious fruits with seeds enclosed in them that other animals, such as birds and monkeys, consume and discard the seeds elsewhere, away from the tree from which the fruit was plucked.

Some species, however, have devised ingenious techniques to make sure their next generation thrives well. Here are six such examples which show how different environmental conditions produce varying and unique demands and how marvellously the plants have adapted to those circumstances.



A Coco de mer seed

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## Coco De Mer

This plant (*Lodoicea Maldivica*) is a native of the Seychelles Islands, which lie in the Indian Ocean, just off the eastern coast of Africa. These trees produce the heaviest seeds (from 18 to 40 kilograms) and are half a metre long! The seed is not meant for travelling. It just falls off the parent and sits for years and years on the forest floor, growing extremely slowly.

## The Seeds that Walk!

Some species of wild oats, such as *Avena Sterilis*, produce seeds that can walk. Each seed has two bristles on top called awns. These awns act as limbs — they twist and untwist depending on the changing levels of humidity.



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