

Contents

1	Amazing Plants	1
1.1	Carnivorous Plants	2
1.1.1	Experiment: The Sundew—Plant Sucks Gummy Bears	3
1.1.2	Experiment: The Venus Flytrap: Snap Shut—Fly Dead (or Gummy Bear Mash)	6
1.2	Sparkling, Spotless Leaves: The Lotus Effect	10
1.2.1	Experiment: Honey that Doesn't Stick	10
1.2.2	Experiment: Smooth or Rough—That is the Question!	16
1.2.3	Experiment: The Dirt Must Go	18
1.2.4	Experiment: Mirror, Mirror on the Leaf	24

1.2.5	Experiment: Destroyed “Lotus Effect”	25
1.2.6	Lotus Effect on Autumn Leaves in Drizzly Weather	26
1.3	Change Your Color!	28
1.3.1	Experiment: Indicator Solution from Radishes	28
	References	30
2	In the Garden, on the Meadow, Terrace or Balcony	33
2.1	The Green Leaf Pigment—A Colorful Wonder Bag	34
2.1.1	The Colors of Chlorophyll	34
2.1.2	The Large Color Palette	36
2.1.3	Photosynthesis	39
2.1.4	Experiment: Making a Chlorophyll Solution	42
2.1.5	Experiment: Red Glow in the Green Grass—Tracking Photosynthesis with a Flashlight	43
2.1.6	Experiment: Making Fluorescence “Disappear”—The Quenching Effect	47
2.1.7	Experiment: Do Other Green Dyes also Glow Red?	49
2.1.8	Experiment: Making the Yellow Leaf Pigments Visible: Green on Top, Yellow Below	50
2.2	The Greenhouse Effect on Earth	55
2.2.1	Experiment: Greenhouse Effect in a Bottle	59
2.3	Some Like It Hot	62

	Contents	xiii
2.3.1	Experiment: Heat from Gas? No, Heat from Grass!	62
2.4	Radical Cress	64
2.4.1	Experiment: Cress Heart—I Love You Crass!	64
2.5	Radical Puzzle	66
2.5.1	Experiment: Natural Fiber Optic Lamp	67
	References	68
3	In the Forest, in the Park, on the Hike	71
3.1	The Forest is Slowly Running Out of Steam	72
3.2	Spiderman Catches the Criminals— Spiders Catch Microplastics—Huh? Really Now?	74
3.3	Survivors for Millions of Years: The Lichens	75
3.3.1	Lichen Early Warning System: The Bioindicator for Clean Air	80
3.3.2	Experiment: Determining Air Quality with Lichen Counting	82
3.3.3	Experiment: How Good is the Air in Your Nearest Forest, Park or Residential Area?	85
3.4	Traffic Light on the Branch—Red Glow of the Yellow Lichens	90
3.4.1	Experiment: Red Yellow Green on Branches	91
3.5	Waldtraut is the Highest	94
3.5.1	Experiment: Tree Height Measurement using the Intercept Theorem—The Stick Method	95

3.5.2	Experiment: Tree Height Measurement with Mega Triangle Ruler	99
3.6	Magic Cone	102
3.6.1	Experiment: Cone Drawbridge	102
3.7	Autumn is Mushroom Time	104
3.7.1	Experiment: Mushroom Spore Print	105
	References	106
4	At the Pond, Puddle, or Lake	109
4.1	Making Microorganisms Visible with a Laser Pointer—Without a Microscope	110
4.1.1	Experiment: Creating Detailed Images with the “Laser-Drop Method”	110
4.1.2	Experiment: Oral Mucosal Cells	113
4.1.3	Experiment: Microorganisms from the Pond, Puddle, Lake	115
4.1.4	Experiment: Moss Extract	119
4.1.5	Experiment: Red Blood Cells (Erythrocytes)	120
4.1.6	Evaluation of the Measurements	124
4.1.7	Conclusion and Evaluation	126
4.1.8	Experiment: Disco Ball Made of Soap Bubbles	127
4.2	Ice Play in Winter	130
4.2.1	Experiment: Disco Ice Floe	130
4.2.2	Experiment: Measuring Ice Thickness	133
4.2.3	Experiment: Bing-Kling-Titscher-Titscher-Dirr	135
	References	138

5	Searching for Traces with the UV Lamp—A Light Spectacle	141
5.1	With the UV Lamp in the Vegetable Garden and in the Kitchen	142
5.1.1	Experiment: The Pink Glow of Zucchini and Lamb's Lettuce	144
5.1.2	Experiment: Vegetable Smiley	146
5.1.3	Experiment: Green Bell Pepper—Unappealing Outside, Fascinating Inside	147
5.1.4	Experiment: Spooky Pepper	149
5.1.5	Experiment: Radiant Kiwi	151
5.1.6	Experiment: Sunset with Kiwi & Co.	152
5.1.7	Experiment: Egg, why are you glowing so red?	153
5.2	With the UV Lamp in the Green, in the Forest, by the River	154
5.2.1	Experiment: No moss, nothing (red) going on	155
5.2.2	Experiment: Mushroom Beauty or Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde	157
5.2.3	Experiment: At the Stream, River, Pond	162
5.2.4	Experiment: Red Duckweed	163
5.2.5	Experiment: Detecting Trash	164
5.3	Luminous Lichens	166
5.3.1	Experiment: Yellow Sulfur Lichens—Orange Luminescence	167
5.4	Small, Glowing Ghosts	168
5.4.1	Experiment: Turning Woodlice into Ghosts	169

5.5	Colorful Luminous Stones, Colorful Stone Lighting	171
5.5.1	Experiment: Fluorescent Minerals	171
5.6	UV + LED = Light	174
5.6.1	Experiment: Electric Trick with LED Lamps	174
	References	176
6	On the Beaches of the North and Baltic Seas	179
6.1	Marine Luminescence—Cold Fireworks in Blue	180
6.1.1	Experiment: Luminous Footprints in Blue (North Sea)	181
6.2	Nighttime Color Spectacle on the Beach—The Dark Side of the Sea	185
6.2.1	Experiment: Bright Red Algae Sludge (North Sea)	186
6.2.2	Experiment: Sky Blue Crab Shell (North Sea)	189
6.2.3	Experiment: Invisible Color Diversity (North Sea)	191
6.2.4	Experiment: Bright Yellow (Baltic Sea & North Sea)	194
6.2.5	Blue Jellyfish (Baltic Sea)	196
6.2.6	Baby Blue	196
6.2.7	Trash on the Beach	197
6.3	Baltic Gold and Chicken Gods	198
6.3.1	I find what you don't see—Special Stones on the Baltic Sea	198
6.3.2	Amber, the Gold of the Baltic Sea	201

	Contents	xvii
6.4	Sand Avalanches	203
6.4.1	Experiment: Digging a Sand Avalanche	203
6.5	Beyond the Horizon ... it Continues ...	206
6.5.1	Experiment: The Sea ... Infinite Vastness ... or is it?	207
	References	210
	Glossary	213