



*At LadybugFlights we have always encouraged the participation of our readers. For that reason we have this space, a place where **you** can be heard. Nothing as formal as an article or a column... Just some venting, self-expression, or a chance to communicate what you are thinking on almost any topic. [Send it to us](#) and we will let you know if we can use it!*

Next Time You Eat A Plant ...

Think, is this another win for a corporation?

from Lowell Jones

Plants are choosy about whom they help and they do it at some cost to themselves as individuals, since presumably, any given plant might be better off stealing its sister's water although this win-lose situation is not ideal. Scientific models have shown that if all the plants sharing the same pot could somehow agree not to compete for resources, they would end up healthier, as a group, than they would if they did compete. (A win-win situation)

It is to an individual plant's advantage not to compete as long as it can trust its neighbor plant to restrain itself as well. In most situations, this does not happen, so the plants usually move right in on their rivals' territory. However, recognition may serve as a kind of "secret handshake" that allows plants to hold back from competition without being taken advantage of. As a result, the sibling plants might all enjoy better health in the short term, and promote their genes in the long term.

Recent studies show that plants use their roots to recognize and care for their siblings (plants grown from seeds from the same mother). When siblings are

grown next to each other, they grow and play together and don't send out more roots to compete with one another and share nutrients equally.. However, when a plant is placed in soil with strangers, it begins competing with them by rapidly growing more roots to take up the water and mineral nutrients in the soil.

As siblings grow next to each other, their leaves often will touch and intertwine compared to strangers that grow rigidly upright and avoid touching. Larger plants keep their leaves positioned so that maximum light reaches their siblings. Plants protect their siblings by sharing large quantities of chemicals that stop predators from eating the plants.

Plants contain cells. Plants can grow. Plants can die. Plants are alive, however, Plants do not possess a central nervous system , or muscles, which the brain is a muscle. No brain. No nervous system, no pain, but they may have emotions. In the end the purpose of all living things is to go on living. So ... sentient being, yes/no?

Clearly, it is in the best interest of plants to live and grow with their siblings. And, they can gain the help of corporations in doing this by becoming genetically engineered seeds. A WIN-WIN situation for plants and corporations.