

# Test Your Knowledge



A.

Though most would think twice before messing with my thorny disposition, I do have a large sweet fruit (bean pod - hence the name) and my thornless cousin is a popular landscape tree. Do you know me?

*Photo courtesy: Jeff Stringer*



B. You only ever see me when my apple tree buddy is growing nearby. I am a fungus that attacks red cedar stems and apple fruits at the same time. Close relatives of mine also attacks hawthorn and quince in the same way. I'm not usually a significant threat to either host but I can make apples look rather bad. What am I?

*Photo courtesy: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, www.Bugwood.org*



C.

I like all types of tree species in the walnut family, including hickory, pecan and butternut. My pals and I first eat the lower part of the leaf in late spring and then chow down on the upper part of the leaf later in summer. Occasionally, we can even kill our host, but don't sweat it – it's not that common. Who am I?

*Photo courtesy: Charles S. Lewallen, Private Photographer; Oklahoma*



D.

I'm usually relatively round and can get extremely large (current record is 50 pounds). I am edible but best if you harvest me before my flesh begins to darken. The spores within me are dispelled by wind and rain and I can hold trillions of spores – yes that's trillions! What am I?

*Photo courtesy: Alexey Sergeev, Department of Physics, Texas A&M, www.asergeev.com*



E. Most folks know me by my "leaves of three." Chances are you have probably rubbed me the wrong way and my urushiol oil caused your skin to develop an itchy rash within a day or two. When burned, I can actually do the same thing inside your throat and lungs if the smoke is inhaled, so be careful. I can grow in shrub form, climbing or ground vine so have your calamine lotion handy. Do you know me?

*Photo courtesy Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, www.Bugwood.org*

Answers to Test Your Knowledge can be found on page 25.