

# Test Your Knowledge

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



A.

Am I some funny-looking tomato, or a new breed of apple? Chances are the deer and turkeys on your property know me well and wait for me to ripen. My wood is fairly hard and is used for golf clubs, pool cues and interior home products. If you were impatient and tasted me before I was ripe, you'll never do it again! Do you know me?



B. I'm often called a shelf mushroom, but I'm not edible. I grow on many types of trees, especially maples, birches, beech, apple, poplars, cherry, plum, oaks, willows and elm. If you're seeing me, I'm in the process of eating my host alive from the inside out. There are many varieties like me, but I'm the only one you can carve pictures on and they stay. Have you seen me?

Photo courtesy: Dave Powell, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, www.forestryimages.org



C.

It doesn't matter how well you've insulated your double or triple-pane windows, I'll find a way to get in there. I am not from the U.S., but I was brought over from Asia to help in controlling agricultural pests that attack apples and pecans during the 1960s. I've migrated north to Kentucky and I prefer warm, sunny places to overwinter. Do you know who I am?

Photo courtesy: Iowa State University Extension, www.extension.iastate.edu



D.

I am an evergreen, parasitic plant that only grows in the crowns of deciduous trees. Since I'm plugged into my host's resources, I have no need to fend for myself. Most folks don't pay attention to me until the holidays, but I'm always there. When brought inside, I'm frequently found hanging over doorways and am the impetus for amorous couples. Do you know me?

Photo courtesy: Southern Gardener, Mississippi State University Extension Service, www.msucare.com

Photo courtesy: William Yam, EduPic Graphical Resource, www.edupic.net



E. Some folks call me an orange, while others call me an apple, but I'm neither. I was planted originally as a "living fence" prior to barbed wire and the Native Americans used my wood for their bows and my sap for medicine and dyes. My fruit is said to repel spiders and roaches. Better wear a hard hat if you're working around me. Do you know me?

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