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Subject: Shrapnel seed-pods

Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 05:38:36 GMT

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Walked into the kitchen to get some biscuits just now. Freaky thing happened, all of a sudden there was a "pop" and little bits of something flew everywhere.

It happened again as I got closer. I nearly wet my pants.

After woods I looked in the kitchen for what it could have been. I found these seed-pods on the window-sill. No-one knew what they were.

In the middle of photography my camera went haywire, switching between modes quickly until finally locking up after I gave it a thump. Probably just because it's partially faulty, chowing the most expensive batteries in 30 minutes seems to be a vital clue.

Anyone have an idea what plant these seed-pods belong to?

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File Attachments

1) [forum\\_wierdplant01.jpg](#), downloaded 804 times



2) [forum\\_wierdplant02.jpg](#), downloaded 798 times



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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 08:57:52 GMT  
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Trifids.

Run.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 09:40:10 GMT  
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nikki6ixx wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 19:57Trifids.

Run.

DON'T LOOK AT THE PRETTY LIGHTS IN THE SKY TONIGHT!

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [BlueThen](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 15:54:46 GMT  
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Sounds like one of those stories off of 4chan.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Creed3020](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 18:24:29 GMT  
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There are plant species that spread their seed through a process of seed pods in tension.

When triggered by a close air pressure change or something touching them the built up pressure in the seed pod walls is released flinging the seed up to 10 feet depending on which species.

I'll ask one of my prof's if they can identify which species your plant is.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 23:29:55 GMT  
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So if I tap them they'll probably explode?

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Creed3020](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 23:30:18 GMT  
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Yes, most likely.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Sun, 13 Jan 2008 00:21:34 GMT  
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This is how terrorists make their explosives, they grow them on trees

That is kind of freaky. They don't release any toxic gases or material of any description?

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods

Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Sun, 13 Jan 2008 00:52:25 GMT

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Whacked it a few times, none of the other pods had built up any gas yet. I then moved it and took some more pics. All I had was a ten-cent coin (Australian sorry) for scale.

If you are wondering I'm an image neat freak, hence the 512x512 resolution and the fact its slit up into 3 images (for small screens/windows and slow Internet connections)

#### File Attachments

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1) [wierdplant03.jpg](#), downloaded 538 times



2) [wierdplant04.jpg](#), downloaded 538 times



3) [wierdplant05.jpg](#), downloaded 542 times



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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [sadukar09](#) on Sun, 13 Jan 2008 01:51:09 GMT  
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Eh, the Australian 10 cents looks like Canadian quarter.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods  
Posted by [Creed3020](#) on Mon, 14 Jan 2008 23:00:06 GMT  
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It is not gas building up in the seed pods but rather physical tension as the cell walls dry out.

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Kicking myself for not having my one textbook lying around...It is still at home.

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods

Posted by [Veyrdite](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 04:43:51 GMT

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Creed3020 wrote on Tue, 15 January 2008 10:00It is not gas building up in the seed pods but rather physical tension as the cell walls dry out.

Kicking myself for not having my one textbook lying around...It is still at home.

Are you after the word contraction?

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Subject: Re: Shrapnel seed-pods

Posted by [jnz](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 04:55:53 GMT

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There's no contradiction in that

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