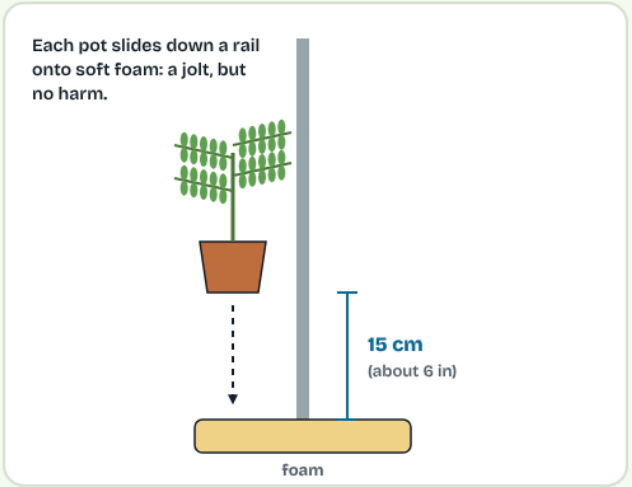
That is why

Can a plant remember?

Dropped over and over, the sensitive plant stops folding its leaves, and still ignores the drop a month later.

A The drop test

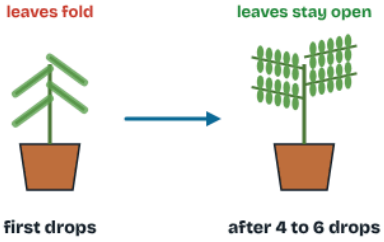


60 drops in a row, about 5 seconds apart. The plant's reflex is to fold its leaves shut whenever it is disturbed.

Gagliano and colleagues, Oecologia, 2014

56 plants were dropped 60 times each.

B Learning, not tiredness



1 The shake test

Plants that ignored the drop still folded at once when shaken, so they were not tired.

2 Learning by ignoring

This is habituation: learning to stop reacting to something harmless.

3 Shade speeds it up

Plants in low light learned faster.

C A month-long memory



The comparison group

Plants dropped only once, then again 8 hours later, folded their leaves both times. Without practice, there was no lesson.

No brain, yet the lesson lasted at least a month.

Fold for danger, stay open for a harmless jolt, and remember the difference.

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Diagram: https://thatiswhy.com/diagrams/why-sensitive-plant-remembers/ · Full guide: https://thatiswhy.com/why-sensitive-plant-can-remember/