



When adventuring takes you deep into Skyrim's harsh wilderness, sometimes you have no choice but to stumble upon beautiful scenes of nature and be struck with awe at the God's creations of serenity, untouched by mankind's harsh adaptations to the land. In many cases, these forest clearings and freshwater springs remain beautiful and safe from people thanks to their equally serene guardians, the Spriggans. These beasts will defend nature with a ferocity previously unheard of in regards to mobile stumps, and many adventurers may attest that they are not to be underestimated due to their elegance.

When I set out to encounter one of these rare creatures for myself, I was advised by many to prepare for a great battle - However, being the great Herbane, I was confident in my ability to defend myself using my trusty sword and shield. As I entered a cave in northern Falkreath, I was struck with an awe-inspiring view of trees, grass, and rivers, and springs, all underground! The sunlight filtering in from a hole in the ceiling was evidently enough to support as many plants as could be crammed into the place, as well as several small woodland creatures.

As I made my way into the heart of the micro-forest, I couldn't help but notice a feeling of dread slowly creep over me: Something was watching me, I could feel it! I readied myself to attack at the first sign of danger, though I could not spy a single creature out of the ordinary. Foxes and deer drinking from the lake, rabbits and birds scurrying around. I would have felt at peace, if I had not been there under these circumstances!

Suddenly, I heard the alarming buzzing that tends to accompany to many adventurer's last experience. From a rotten stump in the corner of the cave, a woman made entirely of wood sprang forth! She wasted no time in protecting her home, spewing forth some sort of spore which had me immediately fall ill. I of course retaliated with a swift chop, only to have my ankles gnawed by a now ferocious wild fox. It was here that my attention was drawn to all the animals of the cave, originally peaceful and almost welcoming, had turned against me and began to aid the wooden fascination in battle! Fortunately foxes and rabbits have no real weapons with which to fight, other than being a slight distraction from the real beast in the cave.

Our battle lasted for ages, resulting in the slaughter of one too many woodland creatures. The sentient tree proved very resilient, as each time I thought I had her worn down, she would be back in full swing before I could even blink! This may have been my favorite beast so far, if not just for the marathon battle I got to experience. Her poison spores slowly whittled me down as her solid oak arms slammed against my chestplate, and my potions kept my heart beating as I chopped her down once - Twice - Three times before she finally fell! Even after the mighty fern fell to my blade, her friends of the forest continued to attack with ferocity I have never seen in such a small rabbit. Luckily I had packed a scroll to calm the animals, as their sanctuary had suffered enough without more loss.

An average man would have succumbed to a great swarm of beasts, led by a mighty commander. However, being properly prepared and knowing precisely how to fight and defend from multiple targets at once allowed me to make quick work of the situation without needless bloodshed. As the sanctuary still needed a defender or peace, I decided to plant the Spriggan's Taproot in the hope that it may one day sprout a new guardian of the forest. I shall continue searching for mighty beasts wherever they may be, for I have yet to see what would make me tremble.