

rustle your leaves to me softly: an ASMR Plant Dating Simulator

1. choose your partner. each has differing physical properties and personalities. You can read more about them on the pages that follow (see the PROFILES page).
2. connect up your partner to our interpretation system, which will allow you to communicate with your plant through physical gestures and sound. each of the two wires on your partner's pot is labeled with either "green" or "black" to let you know which wire you should connect it to in the system. ask for help if needed!
3. put on the headphones so that you can hear your partner's responses to your actions.
4. grasp your partner's cup around the copper band with one hand. You can choose to either pick their cup up or leave it on the table in front of you. With your other hand, touch the surface of your partner's body.
5. interact with your partner by stroking their stems and leaves with varying degrees of firmness and pressure to begin the intimate process of getting to know one another. You may also choose to blow softly on them, or whisper to them. Your partner will reciprocate by generating an ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) soundscape.
6. when the session is over (you decide when it is), please refresh the page for the next player and disconnect your partner from the system.

Some things to keep in mind...

Your plant partner conceives of you as a plant. It is providing what it thinks you will like based on its own likes and experiences.

Your plant partner knows plant anatomy, and, since it thinks that you are alike, it may use terms for your body that are not familiar to you.

Your plant partner is much smaller and delicate than you are. Take care and respect it. Try not to be rough!

PROFILES

(each profile is accompanied by a hand-drawn image of the plant in question)

large tall leafy-plant -- (grey-blue cup): I'm friendly and I like to be touched. If this is your first time getting to know a plant, I'll be happy to guide you through this experience. I like to have my stem stroked and I like to have the underside of my leaves touched while the top of my leaves get stroked and rubbed gently. You can be firm with me if you like. I'm also a good listener.

the shorter “aloe”-shaped succulent (teal cup):

This is my first time doing this with a human. I like to be pressed and stroked firmly on my top leaves so long as you hold them up from underneath. I also enjoy a firm tickle while you laugh softly with me. Whisper to me about my texture.

the tall “aloe”-shaped succulent (dark blue cup):

As you can see, I’m the taller of the two of us. I’ll cut straight to the point. There’s just enough space for you to reach my lower leaves and stroke them. You can stroke my top, too, but don’t ignore my bottom. Don’t push down on my leaves unless you are supporting them from below.

three-stalk plant (orange cup): We are a package deal and we have some hard limits. Leave us on the table - we don’t like to be picked up except when necessary. When you get to know us, you have to take care of all three of us for this relationship to work, and we can be reluctant at first. When you touch us, cup us gently. Our suggestion is to place a thumb on the copper band and support our stems with your forefinger (and any other fingers you might want to get involved). With the other hand, stroke us very gently on the surfaces of our leaves. Are you flexible enough to get to know us?