

Rainforest seeds and their dispersal methods

Self-dispersed

Agent	Colour	Odour	Form	Reward
gravity	various	none	undistinguished	none
explosive fruits	various	none	explosive capsules or pods	none
bristle seeds	various	none	hydroscopic bristles in varying humidity	none

Wind and water dispersal

Agent	Colour	Odour	Form	Reward
water	usually green or brown	none	Hairs, slime, small size or corky tissue resists sinking or gives low specific gravity	none
wind	usually green or brown	none	Minute size, wings, plumes, or balloons impart high surface to volume ratio	none

Insect dispersal

Agent	Colour	Odour	Form	Reward
Ants	undistinguished	none to humans	Elaiosome attached to seed coat	Oil of starch body with chemical attractant

Animal dispersal

Agent	Colour	Odour	Form	Reward
hoarding mammals	brown	weak or aromatic	tough, thick- walled nuts	seed itself
hoarding birds	green or brown	none	rounded, wingless seeds or nuts	seed itself
tree-dwelling fruit-eaters	brown, green, white, orange, yellow	aromatic	arillate seeds or drupes, often compound	aril or pulp rich in protein, sugar or starch
bats	green, white or pale yellow	aromatic	pendant	pulp rich in starch
ground-dwelling mammals	green or brown	none	tough, bigger than 50mm long	pulp rich in lipids (fats)
birds which eat mostly fruit	black, blue, red, green, or purple	none	large arillate seeds or drupes, seeds bigger than 10mm long	pulp rich in lipids (fats) or protein
other birds	black, blue, red, orange, or white	none	small or medium- sized arillate seeds, berries or drupes, seeds smaller than 10mm long	sugar or starch
animal fur or feathers	undistinguished	none	barbs, hooks or sticky hairs	none