# MEET STINK FLOYD

## the Giant Corpse Flower

(Amorphophallus titanum)

Owned by ISU's Bessey Greenhouse (Richard W. Pohl Conservatory) under the guardianship of Kenny McCabe



#### **Amorphophallus titanum**

Known as the corpse flower/plant or titan arum, this botanical giant hails from the rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia.

#### It's famous for three things:

- Its massive bloom (up to 10 feet tall!)
- Its rare blooming cycle (7–10 years for first bloom & every 4–5 years after that)
- Its unmistakable stench of rotting flesh
  (This stench isn't a fluke it mimics
  decomposing meat to attract pollinators
  like carrion beetles and flesh flies. The
  bloom lasts only 24 to 48 hours, making
  each one a truly rare event).

#### Did You Know?

- The bloom generates heat, helping spread its scent
- The plant spends most of its life as an underground tuber, sometimes for years. Floyd is 12 years old.

Don't miss the bloom! If you smell something... unfortunate, the show might be on!

### Life Cycle of the Titan Arum Amorphophallus titanum Bud develops into "flower" OR new leaf Single leaf blade develops 12-18 months into complex array of leaflets Spadix Tuber sprouts after ± 6 month rest WAGATATIVE STUDY Spathe PROFESION STAGE Leaf fully developed Mature leaf is almost tree-like! after about 1 month Spadex interior is insubstantial and gauzy Inflorescence **Flowers** fully developed after about 2 weeks; located at base of spadix spathe opens for 1-2 days Male and female flowers are separate and mature on different days Infructescence Fruit contains 1-2 seeds Fruits mature after 6-12 months REPRODUCTIVE STAGE Seed Seedling becomes mature plant 3-10 years