Plant-eating insects such as this silhouetted caterpillar have played a pivotal role in the evolution of plants. (Credit: Photo by Ellen Woods, Cornell University)

ScienceDaily (Mar. 27, 2010) — There's a war occurring each day in our backyards — plant versus plant-eating insect versus insect-eating insect. Research by UC Irvine's Kailen Mooney suggests the outcome [...]

Plant’s Ability to Identify, Block Invading Bacteria Examined

Understanding how plants defend themselves from bacterial infections may help researchers understand how people and other animals could be better protected from such pathogens. That's the idea behind a study to observe a [...]

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*Mar.17, 2010 in Botany, Science and Technology* Leave a Comment
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Arabidopsis thaliana, a small flowering mustard plant, normally reproduces sexually. But Jean Philippe Vielle-Calzada and his colleagues have show that silencing a protein called Argonaute 9 causes the plant to begin reproducing asexually instead. The blue shading shows the area involved in gamete formation that is disrupted when Argonaute 9 is silenced. (Credit: Jean Philippe [...]  

**From Carnivorous Plants to the Medicine Cabinet? Anti-Fungal Agents in Pitcher Plants Investigated**  
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ScienceDaily (Mar. 6, 2010) — In the tropics, carnivorous plants trap unsuspecting prey in a cavity filled with liquid known as a "pitcher." Tropical exotic carnivorous pitcher flower, Nepenthes sp., waits for any small insect to close and eat it. (Credit: iStockphoto/Eugene Bochkarev) The moment insects like flies, ants and beetles fall into a pitcher, [...] 

**DNA Sequencing Unlocks Evolutionary Origins, Relationships Among Flowering Plants**

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**The space trees have landed**
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Microscope view of reaction wood fibres following looping (Red line zone)  CSA It's not exactly Day of the Triffids but an arboreal moment of some significance, nonetheless. The shuttle Endeavour's return to Earth on Monday (GMT) brought with it the first trees grown on the International Space Station (ISS). The weeping willows were a Canadian-led [...] 

**Quantum Mechanics at Work in Photosynthesis: Algae Familiar With These Processes for Nearly Two Billion Years**
*Feb.04, 2010 in Botany, History, Physics, Science and Technology* Comments Off
A team of University of Toronto chemists have made a major contribution to the emerging field of quantum biology, observing quantum mechanics at work in photosynthesis in marine algae. "There's been a lot of excitement and speculation that nature may be using quantum mechanical practices," [...]
ScienceDaily (Feb. 2, 2010) — As so-called primary producers, plants use solar energy to synthesize the foodstuffs that sustain other forms of life. This process of photosynthesis works in much the same way as the solar panels that supply energy for domestic heating. Like these, plant leaves must cope with variations in the level and [...]