A watercolor illustration of a plant with several purple flowers and long, green, blade-like leaves. The background is a light blue wash. The style is soft and painterly.

United States Botanic Garden

Plant Passport Plants & Food



coconut

(*Cocos nucifera*)

Location: Garden Court

The coconut is one of the world's largest seeds. Their protective shell and built in food and water allows them to float across oceans and wait until conditions are right to start growing on land.



Bananas

(*Musa*)

Location: Garden Court

Bananas are often referred to as trees, but in fact they are herbaceous—meaning they lack a woody trunk.

chocolate

(*Theobroma cacao*)

Location: Garden Court

If the tiny flower of the cacao tree is pollinated successfully, a fruit pod is formed. This pod can contain between 20-40 seeds. These seeds are used to make chocolate.



Pomegranate

Punica granatum



Location: Mediterranean

Pomegranate is native to the Middle East. The plant is now grown throughout the world in Mediterranean climates. Each fruit contains hundreds of juicy, gem-like edible seeds. These fruits are filled with nutrients good for your health.

Vanilla

(*Vanilla planifolia*)

Location: Medicinal Plants

Vanilla extract comes from the fruit of the vanilla orchid flower. The flower is open for just one day and must be hand-pollinated to make the "bean" fruit.



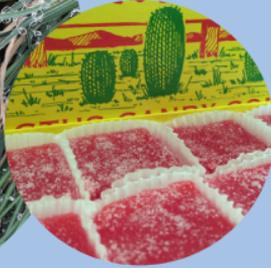
Papaya

(*Carica papaya*)

Location: Medicinal Plants

Papaya has hundreds of tiny black seeds inside its fruit. Monkeys and people eat these seeds when they have stomach aches. We use papain from the skin of the fruit for certain medicines.





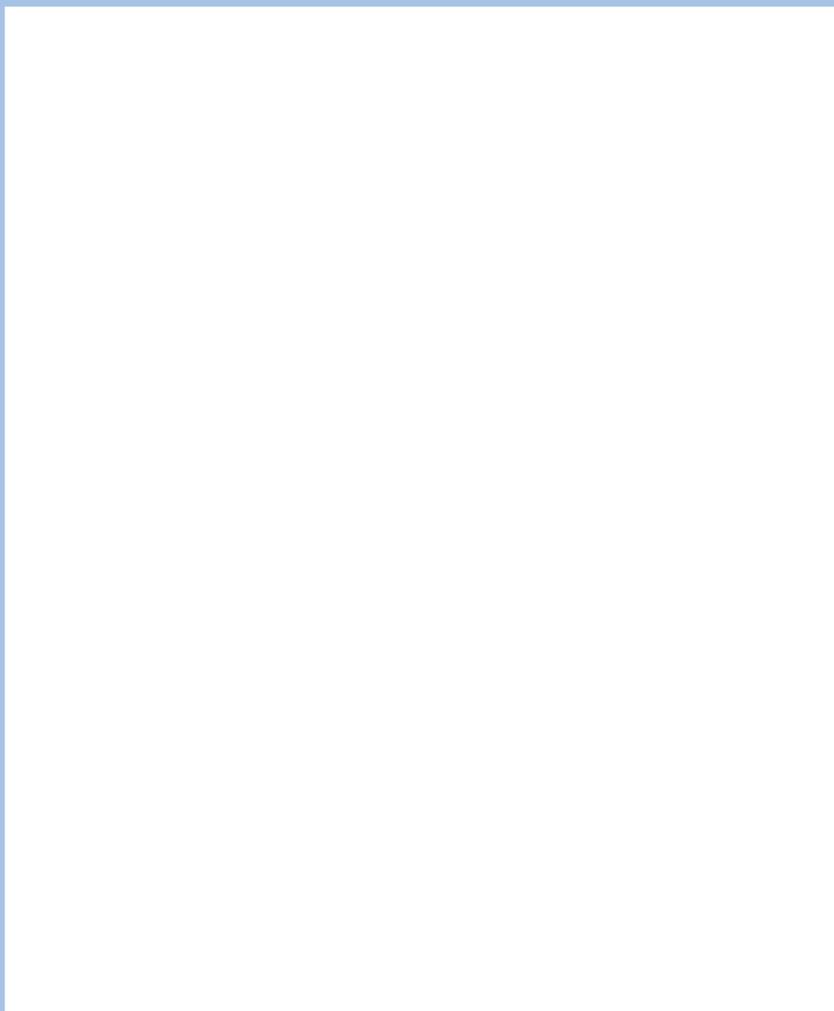
candy Barrel cactus

(*Ferocactus wislizeni*)

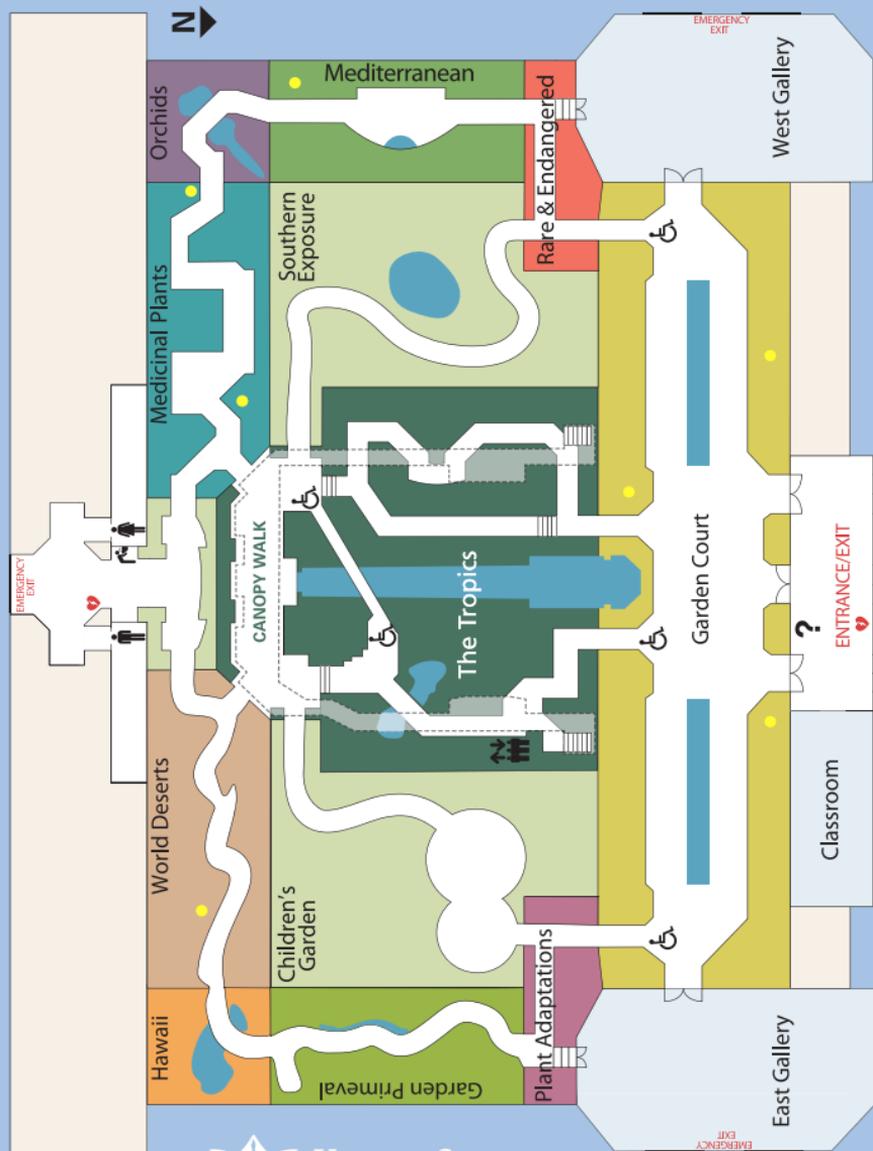
Location: World Deserts

The inside of the candy barrel cactus is filled with pulp that has been used to make a special candy. This is how the cactus got its common name.

Find a plant in the Conservatory we use for food or drink and sketch it below.



U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory



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Rest Rooms Water Fountain Information Elevator Accessible Route Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

