

Amazing Tree "In Bloom"!

One of the world's most unusual plants and the most advanced of the non-flowering plants is shedding pollen this week! Too bad that its pair is not receptive this week. The plant was one of Cal Lemke's "pride and joy plants": *Welwitschia mirabilis* (aka Tree Tumbo), a native of the Namibian Desert that lives in an area where the only moisture available is fog in the morning. It took years to get the plant started, but in 2001, it took root, which in the case of this plant may be as much as 100 feet long. Cal buried a large PVC pipe filled with lava rock and gravel 6 feet in preparation for planting these two seeds and then misted them every few days till they germinated. He has a write-up on this plant online at URL: <http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week416.shtml> as his "Plant-of-the-Week" site. Little would he know that the two plants would grow up to be male and female!



*Welwitschia
mirabilis*

Welwitschiaceae

Stop by the
OU Green
House to see it for
yourself!