

Methods of Dispersal

Fruit and seeds may be scattered (dispersed) in different ways depending on their environment and characteristics.

① By Wind

- Characteristics
 - light and dry
 - may have wing-like structures so that the seeds / fruit can be easily carried away by the wind



angsana



shorea



lalang



yellow flame

② By Water

- Characteristics
 - has a fibrous husk that traps air, enabling it to float on water and be carried over long distances
 - has a waterproof covering



coconut



pong pong



lotus



nipah



mangrove

③ By Animals

- Characteristics
 - may have hook-like structures which hook on to the fur of animals and drop off at another location
 - may have thick, juicy flesh which is eaten by animals, leaving the seed behind
 - some edible fruit may have small, indigestible seeds that are swallowed by animals and passed out in their waste later

 **Examples**

- edible fruit



mango



rambutan



apple



orange

- fruit with hook-like structures



mimosa



love grass

4 By Explosive Action

- Characteristics
 - fruit split open forcefully (explosive action) when they are ripe, scattering the seeds

 **Examples**



balsam



cotton



lady's finger



rubber



saga



flame of the forest



Alert

The African tulip fruit have pods that split open, but not forcefully enough for the seeds to be dispersed on their own. The seeds are small and light so that they can be carried away by the wind.

Another example is the kapok.



African tulip and seed



kapok