Life Cycle of the Titan Arum

While the plant is dormant, its underground corm waits

to begin a new cycle.

Flower cycle

Once every four to five years, it produces a flower.

Roughly a week before opening, the frills on the spathe can be seen.

from the corm after the dormant period.

The flower withers a

day after it opens.

A spike emerges

back after two months, and the plant becomes dormant again.

The spathe dies

The fully blooming flower smells like a dead animal and attracts pollinators. Berry-like fruits grow on the spadix. Birds eat the fruits and help disperse the seeds.



Leaf cycle

Most years, the spike grows into a huge leaf with complex leaflets.

The leaf falls over and dies after 12 to 18 months, and the plant becomes dormant again.

The leaves gather energy from the sun and store it in the corm. It will need this energy to bloom.