



EPIPHYTE

EPI = on or upon

Phyte = plant

A plant that grows on another plant and depends on it for support but not food. Epiphytes get moisture and nutrients from the air or from small pools of water that collect on the host plant. Moss, lichen, and many orchids are epiphytes.

Also called air plant

Symbiotic - close relationship between two different kinds of organisms, or living things where both benefit



Epiphytes increase the amount of moisture in the air, helping to keep the tropical rainforests humid.

Parasitic - close relationship where one organism benefits by taking nutrients at the other's expense.

C O O L
F A C T

Epiphytes, like moss and air plants, do not need soil to grow. They get their nutrients from the air and water that the leaves come in contact with.