

Stop 161 Kid's Tour – Sensitive Plant, Warm Temperate House

Normally we don't encourage visitors to touch the plants, but go ahead... and GENTLY touch the fern-like leaves on this one. Just watch out for the thorny stems. *(pause)* Did you see what happened!! The leaves folded up when it felt your fingers. That's why it's called the "Sensitive Plant," it's known by scientists as *Mimosa pudica*. Wonder why it does this? Probably to defend itself from getting eaten by plant-munching critters! But after a minute or two, the sensitive plant will return to normal... until the *next* time it gets bothered!