

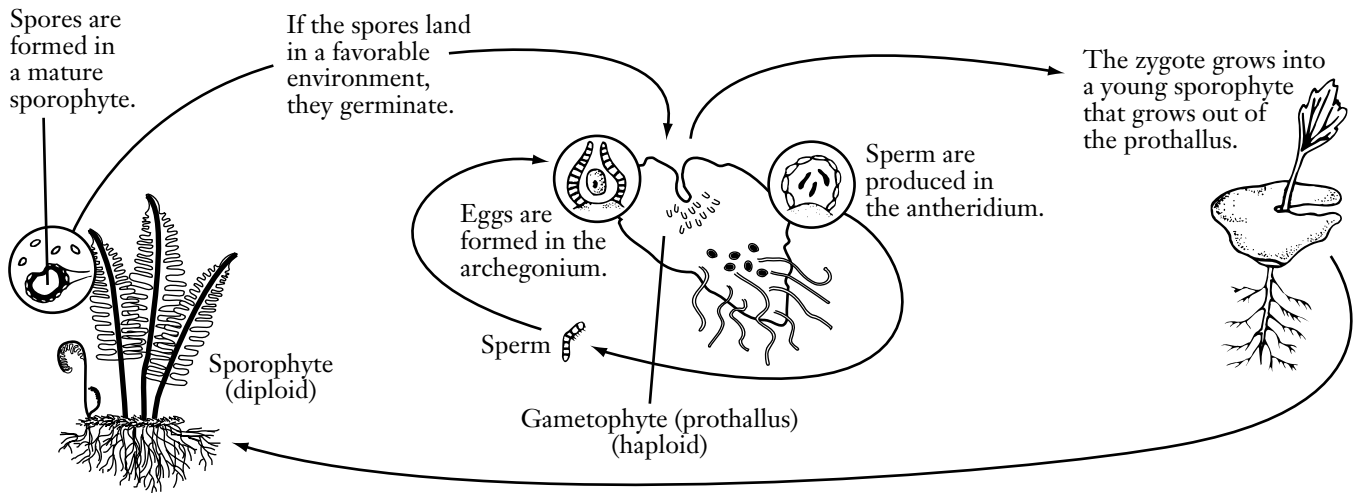
**BIODIGEST PLANTS**

**Study the Diagrams**

Read the paragraphs in the box and study the diagrams. Then answer the questions.

Plants are very interesting organisms. One of the most interesting aspects of plant life is that most of them have two different forms or stages they go through during their lifetime. The gametophyte stage or generation is where the sperm and eggs are formed. The number of chromosomes in these gametes are half the normal number for the plant species. This is called a haploid (n) condition. In nonvascular plants the gametophyte is the larger, more visible form of the plant.

In vascular plants the situation is reversed. The sporophyte generation is the larger form. It has the full number of chromosomes and is diploid (2n). The sporophyte generation produces spores. In ferns, the spores are dispersed by wind. When it is wet and warm enough the gametophyte generation grows and the cycle starts again. The process of one plant stage following another is called the alternation of generations.



- Which form of a plant produces spores? the sporophyte  
Which form produces gametes? the gametophyte
- In nonvascular plants which generation is the largest? \_\_\_\_\_  
the gametophyte generation
- Give two examples of gametes. eggs and sperm
- Which generation is haploid and which is diploid? \_\_\_\_\_  
The gametophyte generation is haploid and the sporophyte generation is diploid.