

日本的研究人员已经成功地利用肥皂泡薄膜中携带的花粉为梨树授粉。由于全世界蜜蜂数量的减少，科学家们一直在寻找给作物授粉的替代方法。

Beloved by children and many adults, **soap bubbles** would hardly seem to be the most **robust vehicle** for **pollinating** fruit and vegetables. But Japanese researchers have found that these delicate **spheres** can each carry up to 2,000 grains of pollen, and their gentle kiss is strong enough to **fertilise** a **flowering** pear tree.

深受儿童和许多成年人的喜爱，肥皂泡似乎不是给果蔬授粉的最有力的载体。但日本的研究人员们发现，这些易碎的球体每个都能携带多达 2000 个花粉颗粒，它们温柔的轻吻足以使一棵开花的梨树受粉。

The lead researcher had previously experimented with **drones** for pollination without much success. But one day, while **blowing bubbles** with his young son in a park, **inspiration** literally popped up in front of his face.

这项研究的首席研究员曾实验过用无人机授粉，但成效不大。但是有一天，当他和年幼的儿子在公园里吹泡泡的时候，灵感顿时出现在他的面前。

After a few **chemical alterations** to the soapy **mixture**, the scientists loaded up their **bubble guns** and headed to a local pear orchard. Sixteen days later, young fruits started to form at a similar rate to trees pollinated by hand.

在对肥皂混合物做出了一些化学改变之后，科学家们把肥皂混合物装进汽泡枪，前往当地的一个梨园。16天后，幼果开始形成，其速度与人工授粉的树木不相上下。

While scientists agree that natural pollination is the best method of fertilising fruit and veg, the Japanese team believe that drones armed with soap bubble **sprayers** could, in future, take some of the **strain** from **hardworking** bees.

虽然科学家们一致认为自然传粉是给果蔬授粉的最佳方法，但这个日本的研究小组认为，配有肥皂泡喷洒器的无人机将来可能会减轻勤劳工作的蜜蜂的压力。

1. 词汇表

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| soap bubbles | 肥皂泡 |
| robust | 结实的，耐用的 |
| vehicle | 载体 |
| pollinating | 对……授粉 |
| spheres | 球体 |
| fertilise | 使受粉 |
| flowering | 开花的 |
| drones | 无人机 |
| blowing bubbles | 吹泡泡 |

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| inspiration | 灵感, 启发 |
| chemical alterations | 化学改变 |
| mixture | 混合物 |
| bubble guns | 玩具泡泡枪 |

2. 阅读理解: 请在读完上文后, 回答下列问题。(答案见下页)

1. True or false? *Scientists agree that the best method of fertilising fruit and vegetables is pollination by hand.*

2. How many grains of pollen can each soap bubble carry?

3. Where did the lead researcher get his inspiration from?

4. What do the Japanese team think of using drones with soap bubble sprayers to fertilise fruit and vegetables?

3. 答案

1. True or false? *Scientists agree that the best method of fertilising fruit and vegetables is pollination by hand.*

False. Scientists agree that natural pollination is the best method of fertilising fruit and vegetables.

2. How many grains of pollen can each soap bubble carry?

Each soap bubble can carry up to 2,000 grains of pollen.

3. Where did the lead researcher get his inspiration from?

The lead researcher got his inspiration while blowing bubbles with his young son in a park.

4. What do the Japanese team think of using drones with soap bubble sprayers to fertilise fruit and vegetables?

The Japanese team believe that drones armed with soap bubble sprayers could, in future, reduce some of the pressure on hardworking bees.