

World's Oldest Plant?

Note: This exercise goes with Section 2.7 of Calculus with Applications.

A group of Tasmanian botanists have claimed that a King's holly shrub, the only one of its species in the world, is also the oldest living plant.* Using carbon 14 dating of charcoal found along with fossilized leaf fragments, they arrived at an age of 43,000 years for the plant, whose exact location in southwest Tasmania is being kept a secret. What percent of the original carbon 14 in the charcoal was present?

Answers can be found on the next page.

* *Science*, Vol. 277, July 25, 1997, p. 483.

Answers to **World's Oldest Plant**

.5%