



Fascination of
Plants Day
May 18th 2019



Success Stories 2019 Part 1



www.plantday18may.org #PlantDay





photo: Alejandro Jandry

PLANTS CELEBRATED ALL OVER THE WORLD



**862 events
in 51 countries worldwide**

Participating countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Zambia

 3,231 followers @PlantDay18May
178.7K impressions in 61 days

 3,258 followers at FoPD
2,048 likes

 3,030 unique visitors at
www.plantday18may.org

On 18 May 2019, the International Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD) was organised for the fifth time under the umbrella of the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO).

Since the first edition in 2012, FoPD has been turning the world green with plant enthusiasts organising events that demonstrate their passion for the amazing world of plants to the public in an interactive way.

Scientists and organisations from 51 countries around the globe opened their doors in order to stir up people's enthusiasm about plants, and highlight their importance for sustainable production of nutritious food and non-food products such as paper, timber, chemicals, energy, and pharmaceuticals, as well as horticulture and forestry.

This document contains a selection of just a few of the many success stories from around the world. Much more can be found on the FoPD website.

Various locations

-  Botanical gardens
-  Plant Science Institutes
-  Museums
-  Libraries
-  Companies
-  Universities
-  Forests
-  National Parks

Number of events

-  **Poland**
226
-  **Italy**
176
-  **Japan**
25
-  **China**
8
-  **Argentina**
11
-  **Mexico**
7
-  **Ethiopia**
5

Europe



Sweden



📍 Kafé Fika at Väven in Umeå

Umeå Plant Science Centre, Umeå University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Skogforsk, the Research Institute of Sweden, the Swedish Bonsai Society and the Broparken Gardening Project organised a diversity of hand-on activities on hidden colours in plants, microalgae, plant insets, and many others.



Austria



📍 Vienna Open Lab and Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology in Vienna

143 school children (aged 8-11) first visited the Open Lab's molecular biology laboratories, where they learnt how seedlings germinate and how nutrients are transported within plant vasculature systems. Afterwards, together with GMI researchers they planted microgreen gardens in egg cartons, which they could then take home and watch grow.



United Kingdom



📍 University of Reading

Why is it that some plants smell so nice and sweet while others are really quite grossly stinky?! A set of activities—both in the lab and outside—were organised to answer those questions. Kids examined the different ways in which plants try to attract pollinators while doing their best to repel insect and microbes intending on eating or infecting them! All school groups left looking at plants in a totally new way!



Germany



📍 Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ)

How do plants eat meat? How do they drink? How do they change their colour? How do they interact with their environment? All these questions and many more have been answered in IGZ. More than 100 children, aged 3-6 years came to spend the day with scientists; they left excited and exhausted after learning about plants by watching, listening, tasting and interacting.



Bosnia and Herzegovina



📍 Laboratory for Plant Physiology, The Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo

Prof. Erna Karalija, from the Laboratory for Plant Physiology, hosted an event “Be a scientist for a day.” It started with a visit to the plant cloning lab, where participants could see all stages of plant cloning. During hands-on activities everyone could extract anthocyanins from plant material to investigate plant colours and test how they change colour in relation to pH.

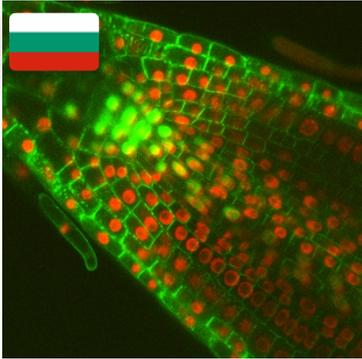


Latvia



📍 The Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia

The Botanical Garden hosted over 10 improvised laboratories, which were organised in collaboration with University of Latvia, Latvian Botanical Society, The Nature Conservation Agency, and other organisations. Activities covered a wide range of topics connected to the plant world, for example biology of plant cells, protected plant species in Latvia, and soil science. On the day the Botanical Garden hosted over 900 visitors, most of whom were students.



Ukraine

📍 MM Grisha National Botanical Garden, National Academy of Sciences

As part of the ethno-botanical project Ukrainians could visit the watercolour postcards exhibition "Plants of the Crimean Peninsula" prepared by Yuliya Krasylenko and botanical illustrator Olha Politylo.



Bulgaria

📍 Institute of Plant Physiology and Genetics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Scientists from Bulgarian Academy of Science showed visitors the internal beauty of plants using microscopy images.



Croatia

📍 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb

Together with other University of Zagreb faculties and institutes, several presentations and demonstrations were given for those fascinated with plants.



France

📍 FLAV LAB Toulouse, National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse

Scientists from the Agro-industrial Chemistry Lab presented an innovative prototype called TRAP'nd SNIFF, which allows concentration of emitted odorant volatiles from various typical flowers of Occitania lily. Trapped volatiles are then chemically analysed and used for nature-identical fragrances.



photo: Valeria Bianciotto



photo: Aleš Kladnik



Italy

📍 Food & Science Festival, Mantova

In Mantova researchers prepared an exhibition entitled "Rhizosphere", where visitors could explore microbes, animals and giant molecules present in the soil, and understand the delicate interactions that are at the basis of soil fertility, and of the food we produce.



Slovenia

📍 University of Ljubljana

Among many events happening at the University, the Department of Wood Science and Technology at the Biotechnical Faculty organised "The biggest green charmers—trees" event.



Romania

📍 Cluj-Napoca

In the Romania Faculty of Biology and Geology, Babes-Bolyai University organised an "Adopt a plant" activity.



Czech Republic

📍 Institute of Experimental Botany in Prague

The Fascination of Plants Day 2019 in the Czech Republic was organised and financed by the Institute of Experimental Botany, which organised 26 events.



Click on the icon to see the slideshow of the success stories from the country!





Serbia

📍 Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković"

The Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković", University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, and kindergartens "Povratak prirodi" and "Mala Sirena" held interesting and creative plant science educational activities for children.



Spain

📍 Spanish National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB)

CNB organised a week long "Plants Love Biotech" event featuring special seminars, "The Art of Botany" exhibition, and hand-on activities on light sensing, molecular farming and phytoremediation.



Lithuania

📍 Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (LAMMC)

Apart from events for the general public, Lithuania held a "Science Behind Plant Wellbeing" conference for PhD students in the fields of agronomy, forestry, ecology, environmental sciences, biology, biophysics, botany and zoology.



Belgium

📍 University of Liège

On Whit Monday researchers welcomed nearly 450 visitors on "Plants & Future" events. Activities included a guided tour in research infrastructures (PhytoSYSTEMS growing facilities for plants and microalgae, *in vitro* culture, herbarium) and a conference on genome editing.



Hungary

📍 Mosonmagyaróvár

Organisers held a photo exhibition and series of seminars on diverse topics, including invasive alien species and biodiversity, history of plant dyes, and plant mobile applications. Secondary school children could also learn about permeability of cell membranes, waterpotential, and survey of allelopathy of common ragweed.



Slovakia

📍 Research Institute of Plant Production in Piešťany

The Institute prepared 19 demonstrations covering different topics related to agricultural plants. Over 660 people learned about different species of poppy, wheat, oats or legumes and their application in the food industry; weed species; gene banks; and molecular techniques used in plant research.



Photo: Joanna Bober

Poland

📍 National Park of Białowieża

As part of active education, the National Park of Białowieża conducted workshops on the largest herbivorous mammal in Europe, entitled "With bison for your brother," targeted at the youngest recipients. During the workshops, forest plants from the "vegetarian" diet of this animal—diverse vegetable delicacies—were presented and discussed. At the end of the workshop, the participants created a commemorative artistic work from plants.



Americas



Canada

📍 Guelph, Ontario

Volunteers from the Canadian Society for Horticultural Sciences taught kids about plants and their importance. The kids decorated, filled them with soil and planted grass seeds!



Brazil

📍 The Institute for the Environment of PUCRS

The Institute prepared a photograph exhibition of native plants kept in the PRÓ-MATA Centre for Research and Nature Conservation and preserved in the PUCRS' Herbarium. The photographs were accompanied by information and fun facts cherishing plant diversity.



Argentina

📍 National University of Quilmes

Over 20 undergrad and grad students from the Science and Technology Department came together to teach the public about the wonders of plants. The department also gathered plant vendors that brought carnivorous plants, succulents, veggies, etc. The event finished with a stand-up show.



United States of America

📍 Michigan State University

Plant sciences met the arts in a collaboration between MSU plant scientists, theand Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU (MSU Broad), and the East Lansing Art Festival. The public explored the amazing world of plants and learned about their benefits and the exciting science that goes on at MSU.



Oceania



New Zealand

📍 Rotorua Public Library

Scientists from Scion prepared a static display highlighting some of the fascinating work they do with growing and protecting trees, and developing bio-based products from wood. They also prepared a 'day in the life of a scientist' video.



Asia



Japan

📍 University of Tsukuba

The University opened its doors to the general public, and provided various seminars, exhibitions, hands-on activities, and guided tours.



Lebanon

📍 Notre Dame University-Louaize, Department of Sciences

The team of Dr. Tanos G. Hage organized a guided tour to explore the richness of plant diversity at the main campus. Students were introduced to the native and cultivated trees, shrub, vines, annuals, and perennials, with emphasis on identification and characteristics of plant families.



China

📍 Hunan Agriculture University

A "Plant Science and Agricultural Production" event was held in Chang'an Teaching Practice Base, which enabled the participants to appreciate the charms of plants and plant science, and promoted their awareness of environmental protection. Moreover, attendees listened to a science talk, experienced the tea production process, and watched tea art performances.



India

📍 School of Chemical and Life Sciences, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

In order to engage school children (age 7-12) in the fascination of plants, the Department of Botany organised a guided visit to a herbal garden and a visit to research facilities in various labs, as well as a lecture on the importance of plants. Following the event, students received a Certificate of Participation.



Africa



Mozambique

📍 Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo

To celebrate plants and biodiversity, the University Botanical Garden invited the general public to participate in plant workshops, listen to talks in the garden, and watch plant documentaries.





#PlantDay on social media

Media, organisers, patrons, and visitors of Fascination of Plants Day events used social media to share their excitement about plants using the following hashtags: #PlantDay, #PlantsDay, #FoPD, #FascinationOfPlants. We've selected only a few of many posts. To see more follow the hashtag links.





May twitter summary

@PlantDay18May

Tweets **101** Tweet impressions **136K**

Profile visits **5,305** Mentions **836**

New followers **263**



May Facebook summary

Fascination of Plants Day

Lifetime likes **3,045** Engaged users **15,903**

Total Reach **195K** Total Impressions **713K**

New followers **190**



Plant day in press

Some of the events organised as part of the Fascination of Plants Day 2019 were covered in local press and the Internet news feeds. Click on articles to read more.

Grynas.lt
Kaune, Lithuania



oxfordmail.co.uk
Oxford, United Kingdom





National Coordinators

Gaston Vaghi Medina (Argentina)
 Hannah Birke (Australia)
 Margit Laimer (Austria)
 Claire Périlleux (Belgium)
 Silvia Ten (Bolivia)
 Erna Kačalija (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
 Cristiane Follmann Jurinitz (Brazil)
 Anelia Iantcheva (Bulgaria)
 Shahrokh Khanizadeh (Canada)
 Michael Geoffrey Handford (Chile)
 Weihua Tang (China)
 Boris Duralija (Croatia)
 Vanek Tomas UEB (Czech Republic)
 Meseret Tesema (Ethiopia)
 Karen Sims-Huopaniemi (Finland)
 Marie-Jeanne Sellier (France)
 Ulrich Schurr (Germany)
 Georgia Ntasi (Greece)
 Attila Fehér and Janos Gyorgyey (Hungary)
 Neera Bhalla Sarin (India)
 Cara Daly (Ireland)
 Luisa Franco and Valeria Biandotto (Italy)
 Yube Yamaguchi (Japan)
 Agnese Reķe (Latvia)
 Tanos Hage (Lebanon)
 Giedrė Paužaitė (Lithuania)
 Harumi Shimada (Mexico)
 Salomao Bandeira (Mozambique)
 Ganesh Agrawal (Nepal)
 Ingrid Vleghels (Netherlands)
 Scion (New Zealand)
 Olusegun Olubode (Nigeria)
 Trine Hvoslef-Eide (Norway)
 Arlene Alegre (Philippines)
 Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek (Poland)
 Joana Lobo Antunes and Nelson Saibo (Portugal)
 Carmen Socaciu (Romania)
 Gregory A. Pozhvanov (Russia)
 Ljiljana Tubic (Serbia)
 Michaela Havrlentova (Slovakia)
 Maruša Pompe Novak (Slovenia)
 Javier Martín López and José Pío Beltrán (Spain)
 Jens Sundström (Sweden)
 Sylvia Martinez (Switzerland)
 Geraint Parry (UK)
 Yaroslav Blume and Yuliya Krasnylenko (Ukraine)
 Marcel Bentancor (Uruguay)
 Winnie Nham (USA)
 Shepherd Mulwanda (Zambia)

Global Coordinators

Carmel Edwards (EPSO)
 Aleksandra Białas (EPSO/ TSL, Norwich, UK)
 Przemysław Wojtaszek (UAM, Poznań, Poland)
 Trine Hvoslef-Eide (NMBU, Ås, Norway)
 Karin Metzloff (EPSO)

Thank you!

Thank you to all **56 National Coordinators** mobilising the community in their countries; **5 Global Coordinators** synchronising the effort and providing central resources; **4 National patronages:** Ing. Miroslav Toman, CSc, Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic; The Association of the Private Farming of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic; National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; and **international sponsors and patronages:** The Global Plant Council, SPPS, BASF, Copa Cogeca, Eucarpia, and ISHS. Thank you to all engaged in Fascination of Plants Day events, all volunteers sharing their knowledge about plants, and those who sent their success stories to us and helped in creating this booklet.

Next **Fascination of Plants Day** will take place around 18th May 2021.



Fascination of
 Plants Day
 May 2021



Fascination of
Plants Day
May 18th 2019



Success Stories 2019 Part 2



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Success Stories Part 2



Ireland



📍 Waterford Institute of Technology

Along with lots of fascinating talks and tours, an event called “All things buzzing and beautiful: gardening for pollinators” was held, where families learned about flower anatomy through seeing how pollinators tend to favour plants in which their mouthparts can easily fit. Families also learned why pollination services are so important for plant and pollinator conservation.



Iceland



📍 University of Iceland

The University Professor Kesara Anamthawat-Jónsson led an FoPD event. A one-hour walking tour of the Icelandic plant collection at the Botanic Garden of Reykjavík was organized and conducted. About 18 people enjoyed a really fantastic and sunny day. She counted on the collaboration of Hjörtur Thorbjörnsson, Director of the Bot. Garden, the journalist Björg Thorleifsdóttir and the biologist Jóhannes Bjarki Urbancic Tómasson.



Finland



📍 Viikki Plant Science Centre (University of Helsinki)

The Viikki Plant Science Centre at the University of Helsinki organised and ran successful plant related events for the Fascination of Plants Day 2019. Visitors were able to learn more about plants and plant science and the work of the University Research Groups, which study such interesting topics, such as climate change or the function of genes through transgenic plants. You can see their related videos on [their YouTube channel](#).



Nigeria



📍 Federal University of Agriculture

The Department of Horticulture at the Federal University of Agriculture in Abeokuta hosted a Fascination of Plants Day event to the theme of “Plants: Sustainable Environment, Health & Livelihood”. There were exhibition stands, lectures, guest speakers and Q&A sessions. The event was well attended. Participants learned about plants agriculture and horticulture for sustainable development.

See you next time!



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