



May 18, 2017, will be the Fourth International "Fascination of Plants Day"

Plants are unique organisms. They can produce sugars just from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water. This ability to directly synthesize their own food has enabled plants to successfully colonise, adapt to, and diversify within almost every niche on the planet and biologists estimate the total number of plant species to be about 250,000. These abilities make plants the primary producers of biomass providing animals and mankind with food, feed, paper, medicine, chemicals, energy, and an enjoyable landscape.

Now the **fascinating world of plants** will be in the spotlight. Launched under the umbrella of the [European Plant Science Organisation](http://www.epsoweb.org) (EPSO — www.epsoweb.org), Brussels, the fourth international 'Fascination of Plants Day' will be held on May 18th 2017. This follows up on the success of the previously organized 'Fascination of Plants Day' in 2012, 2013, 2015 for which 965 events were organized at over 590 institutions from 56 countries world-wide and attracting thousands of people. This coordinated activity will plant virtual and constantly germinating seeds in the collective mind of the European and World Public recalling that plant science is of critical significance to the social, environmental and economic landscape now and into the future.

The "Fascination of Plants Day" 2017 has been already adopted by more than 56 countries worldwide and the number is growing. All information about this initiative can be accessed at www.plantday.org and is supported by a network of national coordinators who voluntarily promote and disseminate the activities within their countries. A large number of scientific institutions, universities, botanical gardens, and museums, together with farmers and companies, have already announced that they will open their doors, with a variety of plant-based events for all interested people from toddlers to grandparents.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD) is welcome to join in. Just contact your National Coordinator (click on "countries" at www.plantday.org) or the EPSO Coordinator (see below) to discuss and get access to all the supporting materials for the Fascination of Plants Day. The media are also kindly invited to get involved, and scientists, farmers, politicians and industrialists will discuss with them and present the latest state-of-the-art breakthroughs in the plant science world and explore all of the new potential applications plant sciences can offer. The Fascination of Plants Day covers all plant related topics including basic plant science, agriculture, horticulture & gardening, forestry, plant breeding, plant protection, food & nutrition, environmental conservation, climate change mitigation, smart bioproducts, biodiversity, sustainability, renewable resources, plant science education & art.

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Images etc: freely available at <http://www.plantday.org/pr-toolbox.htm>