



Fascination of  
Plants Day  
May 2015

## Higher Education USA RESOURCE GUIDE

### Goal

Cultivate a fascination for how plants sustain the environment and provide essential food, medicine, fuels, and fibers for daily life.

### Higher Ed Focus

Inspire students & other campus stakeholders to develop interest in the importance of plants through critical thinking and inquiry-based explorations.

### May 18<sup>th</sup> is Fascination of Plants Day

Plants are inspiring ALL the time. So don't let May finals stop you from participating.

Host a campus event or classroom moment for this worldwide event anytime this spring. Use May 18<sup>th</sup> (the official event day) as a target date for reporting how you helped inspire a fascination with plants on your campus. Report plans now to and updates later to [Katie@aspb.org](mailto:Katie@aspb.org). Your input will inspire others!

#### Online Resources

- US-based [FoPD Events & Activities](#) – get inspired; put YOUR activity on the [interactive US map](#)
- The [international FoPD site](#) – more inspiration; [26+ countries participating](#)
- [FoPD-US Messaging](#) for taglines, social media options, key terms, heftier talking points, and notable quotes about plants and plant science.

#### Overview Materials

[The 12 Principles of Plant Biology](#) are basic concepts of the science. See free [bookmarks](#) for each principle.

[Core Concepts & Learning Objectives for Plant Biology](#) are goals with assessable objectives for undergraduates.

[Plant Biology Learning Framework](#) has evidence-based teaching resources for undergraduate biology education.

[Milestones in Plant Biology](#) is a timeline for exploring the field from the 1920s to the present. Add an entry [here](#).

This humorous blog answers, [Why does Genetic Engineering call himself Synthetic Biology?](#)

#### Multi-Media Options – ideal for flipped classrooms or campus events

[Why Study Plants?](#) (PPT) reviews critical roles plants play in daily life and to sustain life on earth.

[GEN-Engineering Risk Atlas and the Biofortified.org Blog](#) (GENERA) is a database of peer-reviewed research on the relative risks of genetically engineered crops.

[Hooks & Hot topics in Plant Biology](#) is a Scoop.it blog for timely, attention-grabbing, and informative posts on plant science and education. See also @PlantTeaching.

[How to Host a Plant Biology Film Fest](#): Screen one & enjoy plant-centric plot twists with biological themes.

[Plants Are Cool, Too](#): Fascinating short videos (~7-15 min) of one plant scientist's world-wide explorations of plants (also on [YouTube](#)).

[Partnership for Research and Education in Plants for Undergraduates \(PREP-U\)](#) offers genuine research for students and faculty that also help scientists to discover the function of previously uncharacterized plant genes.

[Plant Science Tool for Research Engaged Education](#) (TREE) is an archive of online research lectures and other resources from plant science academics across the world.

[Secrets of Plant Genomes Revealed](#) videos explore *What causes crazy corn mutations?, Is GM food safe?, etc.*

[sLowlife](#), artistic video shorts, that accelerate the time-scale of plants into our own frame of reference.

[Using Biotechnology for Sustainability](#) (PPT) shows meeting today's agricultural needs & sustaining the future.

[Why plants may be better pets than dogs](#) (3-min video) starts discussion of genomic variations. It's boggling that Rottweilers and Chihuahuas are the same species. Likewise, Brassica oleracea are the "dogs of the plant world."