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Plants to the Rescue! Plant Mash-Up Contest Winners Announced

Seed Your Future reveals the winning submissions for this year's BLOOM! plant-based solutions to community issues contest.

MARTINSVILLE, Ind. (April 28, 2020) — Today, Seed Your Future announced the winners of their Spring 2020 Plant Mash-up contest and sweepstakes — a fun and educational element of their [BLOOM! “Plants to the Rescue” campaign](#). In collaboration with Scholastic, the global children’s publishing, education, and media company, BLOOM! provides free eye-catching, fact-based content delivered both inside and outside of the classroom.

The “Plants to the Rescue! Plant Mash-Up” contest and sweepstakes took learning a step further and engaged middle-school students in imagining and illustrating their own plant hybrid. They selected a challenge in their community, then described and drew their own unique plant-based solution.

BLOOM! 2020 Plant Mash-Up! Contest
Powered by Seed Your Future

Plant Mash-Up: Coast Redwood & Mangrove

Grand Prize Winner

Challenge: Carbon Dioxide and Water Pollution

“The redwood and mangrove tree can be very beneficial to each other. The mangrove and redwood trees are some of the best carbon holders. Mangroves also help to purify the water around them and stop erosion. Mangroves also do not need fresh water, so you would not need to water them. The redwood would help to expand the root system to stop more erosion and expand the lifespan of the tree.”

La'i L., 7th grade, Honolulu, HI

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The Grand Prize winner, seventh-grader La’i L. from Honolulu, HI, imagined a creative solution to carbon dioxide and water pollution by “mashing-up” the coast redwood tree and mangrove.


“The student submissions were so creative and thoughtful. Our judges were impressed by the passion and inventiveness of the entries,” said Susan E. Yoder, executive director of Seed Your Future.

“Anyone who is concerned about the fate of our planet, or the future of human and animal health, need only to look to these students and be comforted that the future looks bright!”

Runner-up winner, sixth-grader Melanie T. from Tempe, AZ, selected air pollution as her challenge. She cleverly combined the peace lily with the Texas mountain laurel to get rid of toxins in the air.

BLOOM! 2020 Plant Mash-Up! Contest
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Plant Mash-Up: Peace Lily & Texas Mountain Laurel



Runner Up Winner

Challenge: Air Pollution


“The Peace Lily portion is able to get rid of bad toxins in the air by absorbing them through their leaves, transporting it through their roots, where they break down the soil. The Texas Mountain Laurel is a classic Arizona plant that can survive the dry/arid climate we have. Luckily, the Mountain Laurel has flowers growing from it already, so this proves the Peace Lily can live off the tree, making the Peace Laurel.”

Melanie T., 6th grade, Tempe, AZ
SeedYourFuture.org

To encourage broad student participation — and a chance for every student to be a winner — the contest included a sweepstakes component, with the winner randomly selected from all entries. Ethan P., an eighth-grader from Whitefish, MT, won with his solution to “bears need food,” with a plant mash-up of jackfruit and blackberries.

BLOOM! 2020 Plant Mash-Up! Contest
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Plant Mash-Up: Blackberry & Jackfruit



Sweepstakes Winner

Challenge: Bears Need Food

“In Montana there is not very much food for bears or humans. This food would grow fast and not die through bad seasons.”

Ethan P., 8th grade, Whitefish, MT
SeedYourFuture.org

Plants are critical to a healthy future for the planet, but their power is unknown to most American youth. This latest BLOOM! campaign marks year three of this initiative of [Seed Your Future](https://www.seedyourfuture.org/), a coalition of more than 200 partners — including horticulture companies, gardening organizations, schools,

colleges, universities, public gardens, youth organizations, nonprofit organizations and individual advocates — united in their mission to promote horticulture and careers working with plants.

“Students chose an incredibly diverse array of community issues to tackle, including global hunger, homelessness, air and water pollution, climate change, human health issues, erosion, food deserts, garbage-infested vacant lots, and even some more personal issues such as not wanting to do their chores of trimming bushes or mowing lawns,” said Yoder. “We’ll be featuring the winners and many honorable mentions on our social media ([@SeedYourFuture](#)) in the coming days and weeks. A number of students even imagined plant-based solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic. We think these students will be our next scientists, practitioners and green-collar professionals who will solve some of our world’s most challenging issues with plants!”

Seed Your Future’s premise is that whether BLOOM! introduces today’s youth to a lifelong passion or a fulfilling career, one thing is clear — the more you know about plants, the more you can make a difference in the world today.

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About BLOOM!

BLOOM! is the movement to improve the world through the power of plants. Through eye-catching content delivered both inside and outside of the classroom, BLOOM! is inspiring youth across the U.S. to appreciate the plant world and ensure horticulture – and the millions of people who depend on it – thrives well into the future. With more opportunities to get involved in horticulture than ever before, BLOOM! is built to introduce youth to a lifelong passion – and perhaps even a career. Learn more and find your plant power at [WeAreBLOOM.org](#).

About Seed Your Future

Seed Your Future is a national movement to promote horticulture and inspire people to pursue careers working with plants. Supported by more than 200 partner organizations, we envision a U.S. where everyone understands and values the importance of plants and the people who work in the art, science, technology and business of horticulture. For information, visit us at [SeedYourFuture.org](#).