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

*Seed Your Future announces the 2021 winners of the BLOOM! plant-based solutions to community issues contest.*

MARTINSVILLE, Ind. (April 28, 2021) — Today, Seed Your Future announced the winners of their Spring 2021 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 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! Plant Mash-Up!**  
Powered by Seed Your Future

### 2021 Grand Prize Winner

**Silver Birch Trees and Lavender combined for Saving Bees and Air Pollution**

“Silver birch trees and lavender are a great combination. Silver birch are very effective at eliminating air pollution. They are able to absorb over 3100 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub> and capture over 79% of toxic particles in the air. They are able to house more than 300 insects - which is great for improving biodiversity. Lavender flowers, which contain both nectar and pollen, are awesome at attracting bees. According to scientists, bees are most attracted to colors of violet and blue; and lavender has both. Both plants function in normal temperatures - which makes them compatible and versatile.”

**Kayla P., 7th grade  
Warren, NJ**

The Grand Prize winner, seventh-grader Kayla P. from Warren, NJ, imagined a creative solution to air pollution and saving bees by “mashing-up” the silver birch tree and lavender.

“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, eighth-grader Mia D. from Leavenworth, WA, cleverly combined the boxelder and quaking aspen trees to help with soil erosion and warming rivers.

**BLOOM!** **Plant Mash-Up!**  
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**2021 Runner-up Winner**

Illustrate your hybrid below:



**Boxelder Tree and Quaking Aspen  
combined for *Soil Erosion and Warming Rivers***

"Salmon are an integral part of the ecosystem here in Leavenworth, WA. A lack of riparian vegetation causes the rivers to warm, and the banks to erode. This affects the health of the river, and therefore the wildlife that depend on the water's resources. The boxelder tree is very adaptable, and a form of versatile maple. The wood has no commercial value, and would not be at risk of being logged. These trees are extremely efficient at creating shade, and grow well along river banks. Quaking aspens have very extensive root systems. These root structures are extremely resistant to human/animal activity, disease, and fire - all problems which this area faces. The strength of these root systems, combined with the helpful properties of the boxelder tree will make riparian zones healthier, stronger, and more hospitable to salmon and other types of wildlife."


**Mia D., 8th grade, Leavenworth, WA**

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. David J., a sixth grader from White Cloud, MI, won with his mash-up for medicine and fresh air.

**BLOOM!** **Plant Mash-Up!**  
Powered by Seed Your Future

**2021 Sweepstakes Winner**

Illustrate your hybrid below:



**Purple Coneflower and Weeping Fig  
combined for *Medicine and Fresh Air***

"When the fresh air is let out from the weeping fig, medicine from the purple coneflower travels with it, letting people breathe in fresh air while breathing in medicine for painkillers in a variety of ailments, including toothache, coughs, colds, sore throats, and snake bite."

**David J., 6th grade  
White Cloud, MI**

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 four of this initiative of [Seed Your Future](#), 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 a remarkably diverse array of community issues to tackle, including global hunger, homelessness, air and water pollution, climate change, human health issues, erosion, food deserts, and trash-infested vacant lots,” 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](#).