



Project BudBurst

Year-round



The Program

[Project BudBurst](#), is a web-based national citizen science project designed to engage the public in collecting data on the impacts of climate change on plants and ecosystems. Scientists at the Chicago Botanic Garden and across the country use observations of when plants leaf out and bloom to draw conclusions about how changes in climate will impact agricultural production, the relationships between plants and their pollinators, and invasions of weedy species. BudBurst allows people of all ages to engage in the scientific process and to contribute real, useful data to these important ongoing research projects. To support this work, BudBurst provides extensive educational resources for all ages and learning contexts, ranging from individual families, to school classrooms, from informal volunteer groups to undergraduate science courses.

Why citizen science?

In a world increasingly dependent on science, it is essential that individuals be scientifically literate to make informed private decisions and effectively carry out their civic responsibility. Research shows that participating in citizen science increases scientific literacy and critical thinking skills, as well as engagement with environmental conservation and preservation activities.

Public understanding of the impacts of climate change on ecosystems is also lacking. Despite mounting evidence, engaging the public in climate action has challenged scientists, conservationists and educators for decades. We know that people take action when local issues and visible impacts are presented with positive messages and opportunities for action.

Project BudBurst uses a place-based approach to engaging participants with research on climate change, providing both the benefits of participating in citizen science as well as an ideal context for engaging a broad audience in climate solutions.

The Setting

With a web-based portal and over 200 plant species in the BudBurst database, participants can collect data anywhere, anytime. Participants can submit single observations of plants as they walk through the Chicago Botanic Garden or a natural area, or they can create a location in their backyard or schoolyard where they make regular observations throughout the growing season.

The Audience

With over 30,000 registered users representing all 50 states, Budburst reaches a national audience of engaged individuals, educators, community organizations, and non-profits, all of which contribute data on the plants in their neighborhoods. Data collection protocols are accessible to both children and adults, BudBurst is broadly accessible and adaptable to a variety of audiences and situations.

The Opportunity

Major Sponsor \$50,000
Supporting Sponsor \$25,000



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