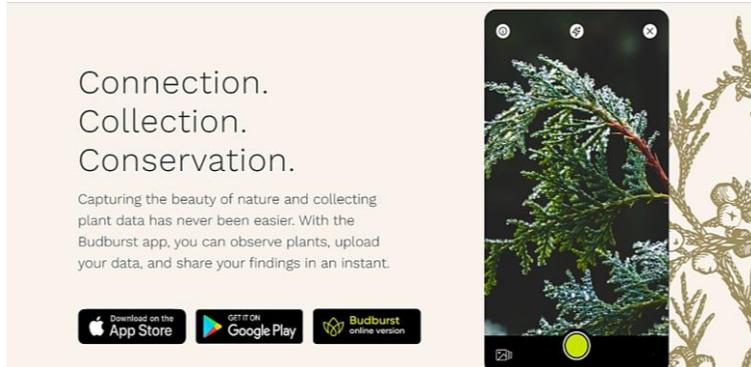




A project of the Chicago Botanic Garden
<https://budburst.org/>

See the natural world you love in a whole new way



When it comes to finding ways to mitigate climate change, we like to start in our own backyard: observing plants and pollinators is critical to understanding how our environment is responding to the changes in our climate. These observations come from community scientists just like you. With Budburst, you can experience the magic of nature, while contributing to the fight to save it.

Why should you join Budburst?

- Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature.
- Catalogue the ecosystem around you.
- Contribute to research efforts around the country.
- Find and observe plants in your area with our interactive map
- Monitor plant life cycles and plant-animal interactions over time
- Collaborate in groups with our community scientists

It's much more than simply taking a picture.

When you use the Budburst app, our interactive map will show you plants in your area that have been observed by others. When adding an observation, the app will suggest a species name for your photo using technology powered by iNaturalist. You can also track phenophases, document pollinators, and contribute to ongoing projects



Setup for Students

- Bring real science into your classroom
- Engage the next generation of scientists with Budburst



How to Get Started

When you add Budburst to your lesson plan, your students will learn to hone observation skills, interact with (and within) nature, as well as learn to collect, compare, and compile scientific data. To use Budburst with your students, simply create a virtual classroom using Budburst Groups.

This allows you to:

- Upload a classroom avatar
- Invite students via email or create non-email accounts
- View and download your classroom data



Visit the Participating in Groups page

(<https://budburst.org/participating-in-groups>) for how to create a classroom group and customize the settings.

It might be helpful to choose a location (e.g. a garden or open field) on school grounds, with one or more plant species identified for observation. If students are expected to make repeated observations of a plant, it's important to select a location that's convenient to visit on a regular basis. In light of COVID-19, you may choose to allow students to collect data on plants at a location of their choosing, including a backyard or nearby park.

Budburst plant pages contain information on identification and "Did You Know?" facts. Browse Budburst plants in your state or plants of interest to a local Budburst partner. Budburst plants include common, easily identifiable species such as dandelions in order to facilitate the participation of younger students.

Privacy Questions and Concerns

As educators ourselves, we're very concerned about student privacy. If students are making observations in their backyard or near their home, how are they protected from the public?

Teachers need to be aware that the general public can see the location of an observation. However, the general public is not able to see individual usernames or associated Group information for submitted observations. Groups that involve youth participation will automatically be hidden groups.

Continuing Professional Development Courses

Citizen Science Academy (CSA) courses use Budburst as a case study for learning about citizen science as a field, how to use citizen science effectively in a variety of educational settings, and how to create compelling activities and opportunities to engage with the natural world.

Some courses also include other citizen science programs such as: eBird, Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), FrogWatch USA, and Picture Post. Citizen Science Academy courses let you participate in a community of practice dedicated to engaging youth and adults in science. CSA courses are geared toward formal and informal educators, but are open to all.