



International Year of Plant Health

The *International Year of Plant Health* is the ideal time for teaching and learning about plants and their importance to the environment and our lives using the theme *Protecting Plants, Protecting Life*.

It fits perfectly into Science Biology units that focus on living things, habitats and the environment; or perhaps you might consider using it as an overarching theme in your classroom for the year.

According to the [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations](#), the year “*is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development.*”

Some ideas:

- Establish a vegetable or native garden
- Adopt an area of bushland
- Decorate your classroom with a plant theme
- Have potted plants in your classroom
- Schedule time in your program for exploring outdoors
- Conduct experiments about the needs and features of living things — plants
- Read books about plants
- Discuss the importance of plants to our lives
- View and discuss the promotional video

<https://youtu.be/cmPAwilK2BU>



Plant/Environment dates to plan for throughout the year

21 March [International Day of Forests](#)

5 June [World Environment Day](#)

29 June [International Mud Day](#)

31 July [Schools' Tree Day](#) (Australia)

2 August [National Tree Day](#) (Australia)

1 September [Wattle Day](#) (Australia)

7 September [National Threatened Species Day](#) (Australia)

5 November [Outdoor Classroom Day](#)



Plant/Environment related picture books

There are many beautiful picture books that introduce children to plants, their importance, how they grow, and how to care for them. These are just five:

Leaf Litter by Rachel Tonkin

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

The Lorax by Dr Seuss

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

