

SUCCESS STORY OF THE VI FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY IN UKRAINE

This year despite the martial law the *VI Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD)* was carried out in Ukraine. This holiday is launched annually around the world under umbrella of the *European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)*. On Fascination of Plants Day many plant science institutions and universities, museums, farmers and industries, national parks and botanical gardens open their doors and organize numerous volunteer events aimed at spreading of the knowledges about plant world, discussion of the latest state-of-the-art breakthroughs in the plant science and contribute to the sincere inspiration for the beauty and magnificence of plants.

The goal of this activity is formation of ecological consciousness, understanding of the importance of the careful treatment to environment, formulation of the principles of rational management of natural resources, sustainable development of industry and agriculture, environmental conservation and the use of renewable resources.

This year the initiative of organisation of Fascination of Plants Day has already been supported by the scientists from more than 56 countries worldwide. A variety of over 358 plant-based outreach activities were already uploaded on the official Fascination of Plants Day website (<https://plantday18may.org>).

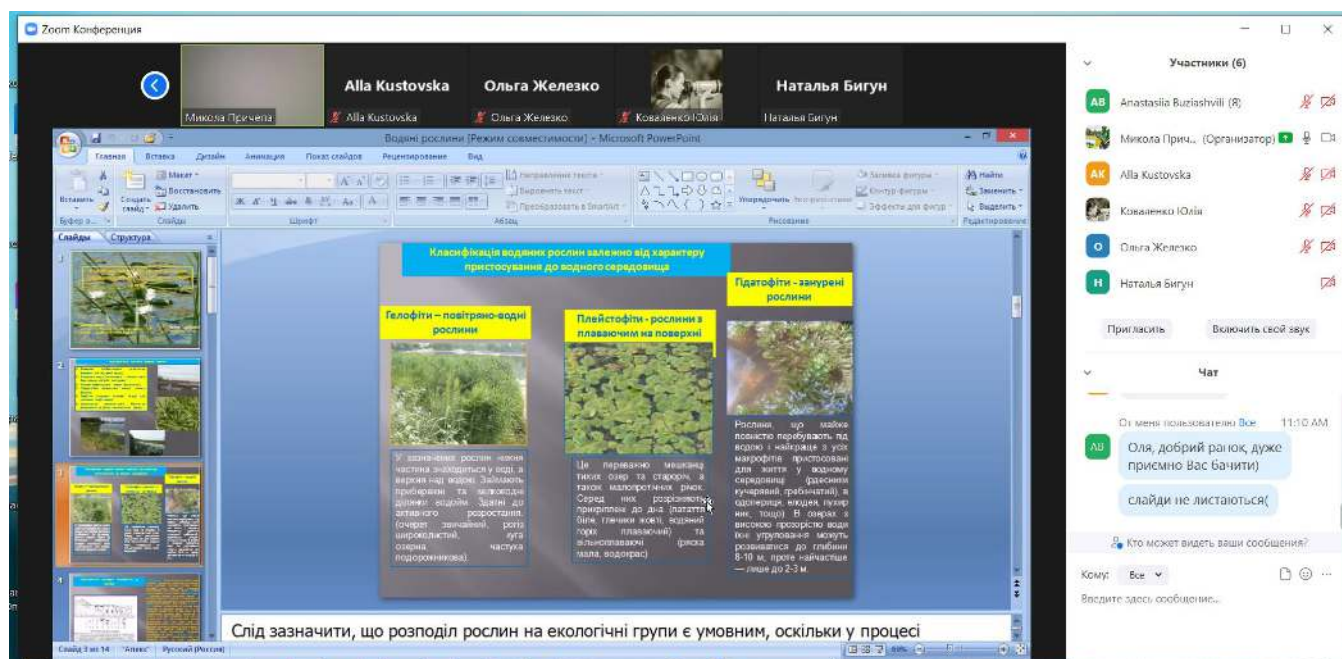
In Ukraine, in spite of dramatic circumstances, the State Dendrological Park «Olexandria», NAS of Ukraine in Bila Tserkva, Municipal Establishment “Kharkiv Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy” of the Kharkiv Regional Council, Institute of Hydrobiology, NAS of Ukraine and Institute of Food Biotechnology and Genomics, NAS of Ukraine in Kyiv joined the initiative and organized the events and plant-based activities on the Fascination of Plants Day. Most of the events were carried out in the format of online lectures, but several guided tours in the “Olexandria” park were also held in the frames of FoPD. The specialists from the Institute of Food Biotechnology and Genomics, NAS of Ukraine, Institute of Hydrobiology, NAS of Ukraine, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, and also the environmental activists of the Holiivskiy district participated in the online lectures, and more than 60 visitors, guests and the residents of Bila Tserkva enjoyed the guided tours in “Olexandria” park.



On 16th and 18th of May the interactive online lecture “*Indoor biotechnology for beginners – lemon in vitro*” was carried out by the young scientists from the Municipal Establishment “Kharkiv Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy”. During this lecture the listeners learned some interesting facts about lemons and the basic principles of the cultivation of lemons *in vitro*.

A screenshot of a Zoom conference slide. The slide title is '3 пробірки – до горщика' (3 test tubes – to the pot). It features two main sections: 'РИЗОГЕНЕЗ' (Rizogenesis) and 'АДАПТАЦІЯ ДО ҐРУНТУ' (Adaptation to soil). The Rizogenesis section states: '0,3 мг/л індолмасляної (або індолацтової) кислоти рекомендовано на етапі коренеутворення (у середовищах MS або DKW)'. The Adaptation to soil section states: 'На цьому етапі також не всі рослини-регенеранти можуть пристосуватися до росту на субстраті. Можливий перехід до ґрунту через стадію гідропонної культури або спеціальні субстрати'. There are images of a plant in a test tube and a potted plant. The slide number '15' is visible at the bottom. The Zoom interface shows participants: Anastasiia Buziashvili, Строчкова Світлана, Наталья Бигун, Анастасия Бузиашвили, and Надія.

On May, 18th the researcher from the Institute of Hydrobiology, NAS of Ukraine performed the online lecture “*Aquatic plants as a biotopic component of the existence of fish and birds in Kyiv*”. The main ecological groups of aquatic plants, their connection with ichthyofauna and water birds and the issue of preservation of biodiversity in the Kyiv reservoirs were considered during the lecture.



Also, on 18th of May the online lecture “*Strategies of the vegetable crops protection against diseases*” was carried out by the researcher from Institute of Food Biotechnology and Genomics NAS of Ukraine. In the frames of this lecture different modern approaches of plant protection against the diseases were briefly reviewed, from the preventive agrotechnological measures, the principles of the rational application of fungicides and phytoprotective biopreparations on microbial basis, to the use of marker-associated breeding and genetic engineering for development of the resistant cultivars.



Стратегії захисту овочевих культур від хвороб



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Finally, on May, 19th and 24th the experts from the State Dendrological Park «Olexandria», NAS of Ukraine held the guided tours “*Lilac Week in Olexandria*” in Bila Tserkva. On this guided tours the visitors got awared with the lilac cultivars in the “Syringarium” open exposition, listened to the history of introduction and breeding of lilac in Ukraine, walked along the shady alleys and enjoyed the beauty of plants.



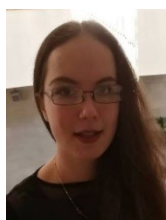
CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

At this difficult time we very appreciate everyone who contributed to this initiative and participated in VI Fascination of Plants Day. We believe that the next VII Fascination of Plants Day will be carried out after the victory under a peaceful sky. Next years we will invite even more organizers and participants, plant scientists, natural experts and all interested people. Different fascinating events will be launched such as the guided tours in national parks with gorgeous unique nature, scientific and ecological lectures, arts and hand-on activities on drawing of plants and making accessories from plant materials, etc.

SEE YOU ON THE VII FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY!



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