

# Fascination of Plants Day 2013 in Russia – Success Story

## Quick Facts

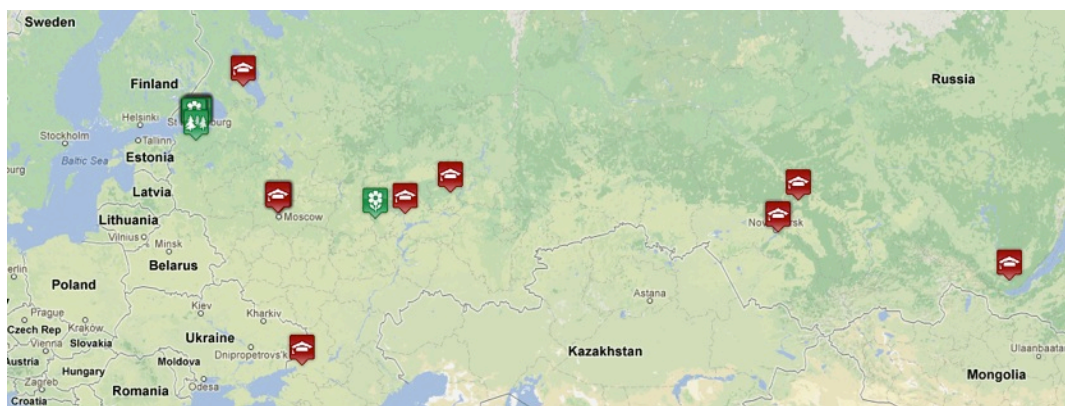
Cities: 10

Events: 34

Attendees: at least 3000 people

Institutions: 11

High Schools: 9



Map from [FoPD Russia website](#) showing event geography

## Events Overview

Plants Day week in Russia started with guided tours to Botanical garden of Southern Federal University in Rostov-on-Don on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, followed by an open lecture about Extreme Plants in high Arctic region by Prof. Dr. Olga I. Sumina, head of Department of Plant Ecology in St.-Petersburg State University.

In Rostov, a number of school pupils attended guided tours through greenhouses and experimental plots of SFedU Botanical garden. They saw how diverse the plants were and studied how to compose flower bouquets, and learned why some plants in plots were in danger of 'green fire'.



Attendees of the open lecture on Arctic Plants learned a bunch of facts on extreme plants' life. For instance, we saw how plants promote hydrolaccolith formations in tundra, making new habitats for plants and animals to survive in the Arctic. Everybody realized how fragile the northern ecosystems were.

A number of local events followed next three days, mainly in schools. School students attended guided tours to spring flora of their local parks, took part in quests, quizzes, etc. Two more institutions joined on Thursday: Petrozavodsk State University in Petrozavodsk and Institute of Plant Physiology Russian Academy of Science in Moscow. Everybody was welcome to see how plant biologists work with plants and how amazing it is for guests. People in Moscow enjoyed classical music closing plant event in Institute of Plant Physiology RAS, and pupils in Saint-Petersburg visited a peat bog protected area within the city's territory.



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, main **Fascination of Plants Day**, hundreds of visitors were attracted to open-air events in Saint-Petersburg and Tomsk. Dr. Mikhail Yamburov from

Siberian botanical garden of National Research Tomsk State University reported over 700 people came to follow guided tours to spring flora of Siberia.



In Saint-Petersburg, two main **Plants Day** events competed for visitors with International Museum Day and restaurant day, and more than 1500 people had chosen plants!

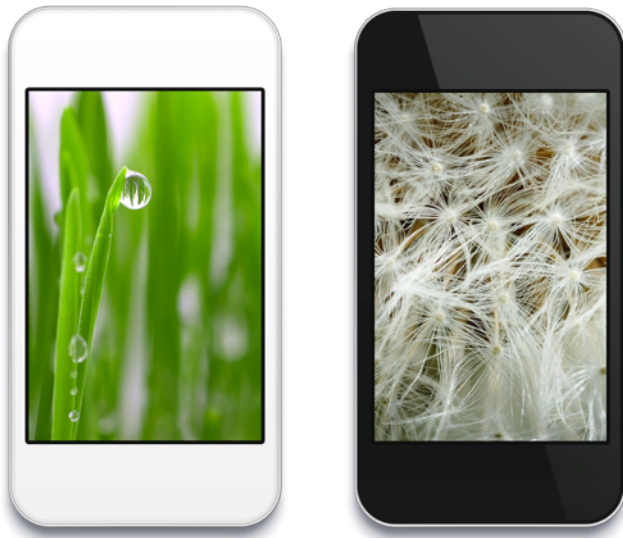
Krestovsky Island ecology center hosted a bunch of events for everybody from children to their grandmothers and grandfathers – park tours, drawing on asphalt contest, plant agriculture training, greenhouse tour were nice options to choose from.



Colleagues from department of Geobotany and Plant Ecology of Saint-Petersburg State University organized great event in Sosnovka park. A quest resulting in every participant getting a book on plants as a prize and a tour round the park full of revelations even for those who take walks every weekend for a lifelong spell there. And even on Sunday there was a small event for hiking fans – Dr. Peter Efimov from Botanical Institute RAS guided a botanical tour to Oredezh river valley. We enjoyed sunny weather, dense coniferous forest and lots of plants flowering this seasonal transition from spring to summer. Corydalis, moschatel, shamrock and may lily, not to mention the dandelion, were among them. And last but not least, we've finally saw Arabidopsis in the wild, that was awesome!

### Photo Contest Finals

A special photography contest was timed to Fascination of Plants Day, and the theme was “Best plant photo on a smartphone screen”. Maxim Sudakov and Sergey Irkhin are two winners (community and jury version). Congratulations, guys!



### Opinions

... I was mostly impressed with the lab. Also enjoyed herbarium – now I'm familiar with how it is made. Everything was interesting and educational. Thanks! — Tserdik E.S., teacher  
I did not want to leave. It was my best excursion! — School student, Petrozavodsk  
Thanks to everybody for efforts! It's a great project aiming in making science popular. — School teacher.

## Media

Vesti-Don TV Channel reportage of the SFedU Botanical garden event in Rostov-on-Don – [MP4](#), 2:33, Russian

“Science and Life” (NKJ) magazine [reportage of the International Fascination of Plants Day](#) in Russia

“Biodiversity” podcast [special issue](#) on Plants Day, NC interviewed by Alexander Efremov

All media files (photos, reports, presentations) can be accessed at

<http://media2013.plantday.ru> or at the international web site.

## NC's remark

Fascination of Plants Day, no doubt, was really amazing with 100% positive feedback. All events were fun for guests because were carefully prepared by responsive people. First Plants Day in Russia had great success, and it's thanks to hard work of local enthusiasts.