



MONSANTO FUND

Date: July 31, 2009

**TELL THE TALE OF AN AMAZING PLANT AND YOU COULD
WIN \$1,000 FROM THE 'POWER OF PLANTS' CONTEST!**
Monsanto Fund Supports Student Contest, Open Aug. 1 through Jan. 31, 2010

- WHAT:** Missouri Botanical Garden "Power of Plants" student contest
WHO: Open to individuals and groups in kindergarten through 12th grades who reside in Missouri or Illinois
WHEN: Entries accepted Aug. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010
WHERE: Mail entries to Power of Plants Contest, P. O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299
OR
Drop off entries in person, Jan. 23 through 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Garden's Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd.
SPONSORS: Monsanto Fund
INFO: www.mobot.org/power; powerofplants@mobot.org

(ST. LOUIS): For over 150 years, the Missouri Botanical Garden has shared its passion for plants with others. This school year, students from Missouri and Illinois are invited to join this world leader in botany by helping to spread the word about amazing plants through the second annual **Power of Plants** contest. Individuals and groups in kindergarten through 12th grades are challenged to pick a plant that does great things and tell its tale through a creative two- or three-dimensional work of art. One Grand Prize winner will receive a \$1,000 savings bond!

The Power of Plants contest is open **Aug. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010**. The Missouri
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ADD ONE: Power of Plants

Botanical Garden received a generous grant from the Monsanto Fund to sponsor the program, which supports the Garden's mission "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life."

"The Power of Plants contest is a unique opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and understanding of the importance of plants in our every day lives," said Deborah Patterson, president, Monsanto Fund. "We are proud to support the Missouri Botanical Garden in encouraging students throughout the region to further their knowledge of science."

"We had over 350 entries from over 500 students in last year's inaugural Power of Plants contest," said contest coordinator Jessica Kester of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Education Division. "Students showcased their unique talents, creativity, and an obvious knowledge about the plant they selected. We can't wait to see what this year's entries have in store!"

Plants form the basis of life as we know it, and provide a host of benefits for the planet and its inhabitants: oxygen, food, medicine, fuel, beauty and more. Contest participants are asked to select one such plant that does great things for people, and tell its story. Creativity is highly encouraged, but entries must also include factual information about the chosen plant and its super powers. Participants can visit www.mobot.org/power for a list of recommended Web sites and books that may help with their project. The Garden's William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening also provides plant resource materials.

Entries must be in the form of a two- or three-dimensional work of art, which can include, but is not limited to, cartoons, comic strips, news articles, models, action figures, posters, stories, pamphlets or flyers. Two-dimensional entries must be able to hang on a wall and no larger than 18-by-24-inches. Three-dimensional entries must be no larger than 12-inches-wide, 24-inches-tall and 12-inches-deep.

Participants can enter as individuals and/or as part of a group. Participants must be residents of either Missouri or Illinois. All participants must submit a completed Entry Form with their project, which is due in its entirety by 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010.

Mail entries to the Power of Plants Contest at P. O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299, or drop them off in person at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis. Drop-off hours are Saturday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entries will be divided into elementary, middle and high school age groups. Each will be

(more)

ADD TWO: Power of Plants

judged on botanical accuracy, creativity and quality by members of St. Louis's botany, art and literature communities.

Winning entries will be selected by May 1, 2010 and on public display at the Garden through June 30, 2010. Awards will be given for first, second, third place and honorable mention winners in each category and age group. The Grand Prize is \$1,000.

This year's Power of Plants contest mascot is Van the Cool Bean, inspired by the *Vanilla planifolia* plant. Vanilla was the subject of last year's Grand Prize winning entry created by Lauren Epley of St. Francis of Assisi Middle School. The plant featured in this year's winning entry will serve as inspiration for next year's rotating cartoon character mascot.

To view details and complete contest rules, or to download an official Entry Form, visit www.mobot.org/power. For more information, e-mail powerofplants@mobot.org.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

About Monsanto Fund:

Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. Incorporated in 1964, the Fund's primary objective is to improve the lives of people by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources. Monsanto Fund is focused on grant-making in four main areas: nutritional well-being through agriculture; science education, primarily on professional development for teachers; the environment, which includes conservation, protection of biodiversity, clean water and restoration of wildlife habitat; and improving the quality of life in communities where Monsanto employees live and work.

Visit Monsanto Fund at <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp>.

About the Missouri Botanical Garden:

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.