



The Y-CITYSCI: A Youth-Led Citizen Science Network for Community Environmental Assessment is sharing information with you about citizen science apps that you can use at home. With citizen science, the public can have fun collecting data in their community while contributing to scientific research.

Project Budburst a project of the Chicago Botanic Garden

Project Budburst allows students, researchers, nature lovers, environmentalists, and communities to observe and report plant life cycle events and when they occur. The purpose of this application is to collect and share data of when plants bloom or flower to look at changes in flowering patterns. The observations of plants' phenophases helps scientists better understand effects of climate change on plants and flowering ecosystems. You can take photos and share your data to a database that has thousands of contributors that are helping the world better understand plant life cycles and phenology.

How to get the app

Visit Budburst.org and register for an account. Click on the link that says register in the top right corner of the webpage. You can register by email, Google, Facebook, Twitter, or sciStarter.

<https://accounts.budburst.org/register>

How to navigate the app

It is easy and can be used on any smart device that has the internet. Once you have created an account and are logged in, the right-hand corner contains a green link that says "new". To upload an observation, click the link and add a photo, date, location, and any other notes or details necessary. Then click "save observation" at the bottom right-hand corner of the screen.

Why use the app

This app is a great resource for scientists, educators, or horticulturalists to review flowering trends in specific areas. The data that has been collected over the years is accessible to anyone and readily available for research and/or educational purposes. This citizen science app can help save rare plants and help conservationists protect other plants. The data collected and shared helps monitor changes in plant life cycles and trends to what is contributing to these trends such as environmental factors such as climate change.

For more information on Budburst, check out the following video.

<https://youtu.be/ZugWHb2jwvM>

Now that you know about Project Budburst, **we challenge you** to use the app to observe plant life cycle events around your community. Take a screenshot and send us the observations that you upload. Tell us why you think this observation is important. Submit your answer by messaging our Instagram account at [@YCITYSCI](https://www.instagram.com/YCITYSCI) for the chance to win a prize and your answer be featured on our page! New Project Budburst related questions will be added to our Instagram story and page throughout the week. Respond to these questions to have a chance to win additional prizes!



Check out more Y-CITYSCI activities at ycitysci.wordpress.com and www.siestemcenter.org/ycitysci/

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