

Top 5 gardening apps for a booming garden

Technology has made our lives a lot easier and more efficient. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or a beginner, gardening apps can be invaluable tools to enhance your horticultural experience. With a variety of features—from plant identification to tips for growing and maintaining various plant types—these apps can guide you to create and nurture a blooming garden.

Here, we have gathered a list of 5 gardening apps that can enhance your gardening experience and make it more fulfilling!

Plant Parent: Plant Care Guide

If you are unsure about the perfect spot for a new plant or wondering how much sunlight a particular plant needs, the Plant Parent app has got your back! As a newcomer to the gardening scene, I was confused about where to place my peace lily and how many times to water it. This app helped me out with the correct guidance. Moreover, the Plant Parent app has a customised plant calendar and by using it, you can efficiently manage watering and fertilising schedules throughout the year.

Seek by iNaturalist

Ever wondered about the name of a beautiful plant you came across? Or do you have a plant at home, but the name tag is missing? Many plants regularly come in front of our eyes, but seldom we are aware of their correct names and species. Seek by iNaturalist uses image recognition technology to identify plants and animals.



All you have to do is simply open the Seek Camera and point it at living things like plants, birds, fungi etc. The app will quickly analyse the image and provide you with information about the identified organism.

Planta – Care for your plants

Planta is a useful gardening app with a range of features, including smart care reminders, step-by-step guides, plant identification, and light meter assistance. This app is quite similar to the Plant Parent app. However, the feature that differentiates Planta from Plant Parent is its light meter, which helps you identify the right plants for every corner of your home and by understanding the light conditions of your rooms, you can select plants that thrive

in either shade or sunlight, ensuring they receive the optimal lighting required.

Lovely: plants care journal

Do you love jotting down little details about your beloved plants? Well, this app has it covered for you. The Lovely: plant care journal app allows you to add notes, and photos, and track the growth of your plants. The automatic journal entries for watering, fertilisation, and other care routines help you stay organised and keep a comprehensive record of your plant care activities. Moreover, this app allows you to create profiles for each of your plants, including details such as the plant's name, location in your home, care reminders and photos.

The feature I found the most interesting is its collection of beautiful pictures of houseplants, which can be an inspiration for us on how to decorate the interior with greenery.

iScape

Whether you are a landscaping professional or a homeowner looking to improve your outdoor space, iScape allows you to design stunning and functional outdoor living areas. By using this app, you can visualise your landscaping ideas and make informed decisions before embarking on any project. Although the concept of landscape designing is new to me, I found the integration of 3D and 2D designs to blend my physical garden space with digital design elements quite useful.

iScape will be the perfect choice for landscape professionals as this app has a vast design inventory, including an extensive catalogue of plant images, textures, and landscaping elements to enhance the designs.

To conclude, gardening apps can be indispensable companions for plant parents. With their user-friendly interfaces and plethora of features, these apps will elevate the gardening experience to a whole new level for you. Hence, if you have a love for plants and a desire to cultivate your green paradise, let these gardening apps help you foster a blooming garden.

By Ayman Anika

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

#ARTS

On her art reaching the moon: In conversation with Salbhi Sumaiya

Salbhi Sumaiya's tale is one of resilience, inspiration, and a profound connection to both art and the stars. At the age of seven, she found her voice through painting. It was not just a hobby; it was a way for her to speak a language that everyone could understand—the language of art. As a hard-of-hearing (HOH) individual, her artistry has transcended barriers, becoming a bridge between worlds.

Sumaiya's artistic odyssey began when her parents stumbled upon her meticulous drawing of an aero plane on a small blackboard. Recognising her innate talent, they enrolled her in a prestigious art school in Dhaka, where her creative spark ignited a lifelong passion.

"Art became my sanctuary, a realm where I could freely express myself without the confines of words," Sumaiya confides.

As her brush danced across canvases, Sumaiya's journey led her from the narrow streets of Dhaka to the broader horizons of Canada. Her hearing impairment posed challenges, yet her determination remained unshaken.

"I enrolled in the LINC programme at CCS' Birchmount location, honing my language skills and bolstering my confidence. Overcoming barriers became my second nature," she asserts.

But it was not just language that Salbhi Sumaiya mastered; she navigated the intricate world of entrepreneurship through CCS's Small Business Support Project. With unwavering support from people around her, Sumaiya ventured into



the realm of possibilities.

Then, cosmic luck beckoned: The Lunar Codex project. A fusion of art and human exploration that resonated deeply within her.

"The idea of leaving a lasting mark on the moon, a connection between humanity and the cosmos, ignited my imagination," Sumaiya muses.

Her artwork, a tribute to wildlife preservation, would transcend the confines of Earth, leaving an indelible message among the stars.

For those who have not heard about the Lunar Codex, it comprises four time-capsules filled with the works of more than 30,000 artists, writers, singers, and filmmakers from 157 different countries, which are being sent to the moon as part of the massive project. The goal of this amazing project is

to create a wide range of artistic mediums that will serve as an eternal testament to humankind's boundless ingenuity and artistic talent. The project is spearheaded by Canadian art collector and semi-retired physicist, Dr Samuel Peralta.

Learning that her art would journey to the moon was a blend of emotions—excitement, pride, and thankfulness, all at once," Sumaiya shares.

"When I got an email from Dr Samuel Peralta, the promoter of the project, explaining that my art was going to the moon, I felt both amazed and unsure if it was real. To dispel my uncertainty, I delved deeper into his background and explored his website. After doing so, I became certain that this was indeed a genuine opportunity."

She continues to share, "I'd be the first artist from Bangladesh to represent my country on the moon. That was something to be really proud of. And then, to know that not just my art but also a powerful video, a Studio Tour of mine, would be there too, it felt like I had achieved something big."

As viewers on Earth and potential lunar visitors gaze upon Sumaiya's artwork against the lunar expanse, a message of unity resonates.

"My art reminds us that we're all part of a journey to explore, discover, and protect," she asserts. "The moon's allure, its mystique, connects with my art's message about taking care of our planet and its creatures."

Sumaiya's lunar-bound masterpiece aims to inspire future generations.

"Art and exploration go hand in hand. Through my art, I hope to ignite imaginations, nurturing a connection between art and science," she expresses, her eyes glinting with hope.

As her artwork embarks on its celestial journey, Salbhi Sumaiya showcases the limitless potential of human creativity.

"This project has shown me that art has no boundary. It's like art can travel beyond borders, even beyond Earth," she states, her voice carrying a sense of wonder. With each brushstroke, she paints not just a picture but a legacy, bridging worlds and leaving an indelible mark on the cosmic tapestry.

By K Tanzeel Zaman and Abdul Warith Khan

Photo: Collected