

BioBeo Buzz

Meitheamh 2024



Welcome to our final edition of BioBeo Buzz this term, before we take a short break for the summer holidays. Don't worry we will be back with a bang (and a buzz!) in September. This edition is coming to you live on June 18th which is World "Sustainable Gastronomy Day," which celebrates all the ways we can eat food that has been grown, produced and packaged in a way that cares for our environment. Keep reading for a bumper edition full of activities, jokes, poetry and news from the world of BioBeo!

CROFT Willow Vegetable Baskets

BioBeo are excited to be collaborating with the CROFT Project this year (Cultivating Resilience through Organic Farming with Trees).

The project is a celebration of Irish organic farming and how the marriage of trees and woodlands with farming practices is extremely beneficial for every living thing in agriculture. Our five BioBeo schools are receiving a beautiful hand-woven basket from Irish willow filled with delicious organic vegetables. Múinteoir BioBeo is visiting each school for a special workshop where the children learn all about the 'Land of Interconnectedness, Our Trees and our Farming'. A stunning poster by Irish artist Hazel Hurley explains how trees and farming have a very healthy, symbiotic relationship for healthy soils, animals and vegetables and all of biodiversity - 'Ón mbumbóg, go bláth, go dtí an nead beag álainn sa chrann'...

The children then make a delicious organic vegetable soup in a hands-on cookery lesson. They finish the day as 'Tree Detectives' using the excellent educational resources from the Croft pack, such as the tree identification swatch and the classic book, 'Go Wild at School' by Paddy Madden. It's a wonderful day of interconnection for the circular Bioeconomy with Croft and BioBeo as we end the day with the BioBeo song, and that exciting invitation 'Tagaigí linn go dtí an Coillín Beag'...

CROFT is a collaboration between BioBeo, BiOrbic Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre and The Irish Agroforestry Forum



Dictionary Corner



Last month we asked you what pollination meant. We bet you could all describe this! *"Pollination is the movement of pollen from one flower to another, often helped by bees. This allows a new seed to be formed."*

Next up it's "Biomimicry". Haven't heard of it? Check out this [website](#) to learn about it. Come back for our definition in September along with a biomimicry based chocolate recipe!

Solve the Riddle!

*I'm a tiny insect that's good for your plants,
I eat up the pests and give them no chance.
Farmers love me, I'm a natural friend,
What am I, helping crops to defend?*

Find the answer on the last page!

'Let us' Experiment with 'Lettuce!'

In June it's likely that in many countries, you will have lettuce or similar growing now. It's an interesting activity to carry out a 'fair test' on how best to protect your home grown produce but at the same time, not to harm other living things in the garden. Follow the steps below to complete the experiment on how best to deter little snails and slugs from your veggies!

You will need:

- 3 lettuce heads (or similar veggies) growing in pots or in your allotment/garden/balcony space.
- Crushed garlic
- Gravel
- Crushed eggshells



Steps:

1. Carefully place gravel around the first lettuce head.
2. Carefully place broken eggshells around the second lettuce head.
3. Carefully place crushed garlic around the third lettuce head.
4. Monitor the leaves of the lettuce or veggies over the next few days.
5. Before long, it will be clear which one of the veggies is the most affected and least affected as a result of your friendly intervention. The veggies or lettuce with the least amount of nibbles will be the one with the most earth-friendly deterrent!
6. Choose the best deterrent for future planting endeavours!



It's so lovely to live in a world that is moving towards more earth friendly deterrents rather than nasty, harmful chemicals.

An Leabharlann Bheag

For this month's Leabharlann Bheag instead of reading about the adventures of Beo and Raja why not watch them? BioBeo are delighted to present a series of animated videos featuring our favourite friends as they get to work as Nature Detectives, learning about sustainable foods and much more! Check them out [here](#)!



BioBeo: Nature Detective
Work in a Bioeconomy

Poetry Corner

Meet Alex, a talented 13-year-old student in their first year of secondary school, who wrote this delightful poem about native Irish plants during the summer. Alex's vivid imagination and love for nature shine through in every line, capturing the beauty and charm of Ireland's flora.



*There once was a clover so green,
The luckiest plant ever seen.
It danced in the breeze,
With bees in the trees,
In Ireland's meadows so clean.*



*The bluebells would bloom in the spring,
Where fairies would gather and sing.
With petals so bright,
They lit up the night,
And joy to the forests they'd bring.*



*The ferns in the forest so tall,
Would whisper and sway and enthrall.
In shade they would thrive,
And feel so alive,
Nature's green curtain for all.*



What did the tree say when summer finally arrived?
Answer: What a re-leaf!

Joke Spot

What kind of sandals do frogs wear?
Answer: Open Toad!



“Learning to see the Interconnections’ at Bloom with BioBeo and Crann



Bord Bia’s Bloom Festival has become an essential date in the diary for all garden-lovers in Ireland. This year many of the beautiful show garden designs had a clear and exciting focus on circular Bioeconomy themes such as the ‘Brigid 1500 Commemorative Garden’. The clear message is that our home gardens can be a piece of heaven and earth for nature-care, bio-based resources and biodiversity.

The BioBeo team were thrilled to be invited and collaborate with Ireland’s tree charity, Crann, who are one of the sustainability heroes at Bloom. They are working to plant, promote, and increase awareness of Ireland’s amazing trees, woodlands, hedgerows and forests. This summer you can check out the wonderful Giants’ Grove conservation project at Birr Castle for example where 1000 Giant Redwoods have been planted as a tribute to Ireland’s diaspora. See Crann.ie for more information.

The BioBeo team were delighted and honoured to share the Sustainable Living Stage at Bloom with Crann and deliver two interactive sessions over the weekend to give people a flavour of BioBeo’s primary education programme around the five themes with a special focus on Ireland’s forests and amazing woodland heritage. Junior members of the audience had the chance to create some art using bio-based resources from the garden in some forest school-style activities. In the end, it was a performance of the BioBeo song which really got the audience singing along and swaying like the trees of the forest. Some very impressive new BioBeo and Crann dance moves were seen from the groovy younger attendees at the talks. The BioBeo and Crann ‘trees dance’ was born! Check out the video of the awesome live performance [here!](#)



Joke Spot



Why did the beach get angry?
Answer- It noticed the sea weed!

Why do bananas wear sunscreen?
Answer- Because they peel!



The Riddle is Solved!

Did you work it out?
The answer is...
A **ladybird!**



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