



## ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

### Atlanta Botanical Garden

*Plant Careers (6th-12th)*

**Description:** Are you creative, like to work with your hands, or spend your time solving problems? Whatever your strengths, there's a plant career for you! Based on your class' choices, our Garden staff will highlight three plant careers and take you behind the scenes to show you a day in the life of working with plants.

**GSE Supported:** S6E6.b, S7L3.c, SB2.c, SB3.c, SB5.d, SB5.e, SEV4.b, SEV5.d, SBO6.a

#### **Pre-Visit:**

**Guiding Questions:** What are your interests? What are you looking for in a career? Have you ever thought about a career involving plants?

#### **What to Read/Watch:**

#### **Post-Visit:**

**Questions:** What career(s) interested you the most during the virtual tour? Are there jobs that you'd like to try out?

#### **Activities:**

#### **What's Your Plant Power**

Take the "What's Your Plant Power?" Quiz on the Bloom website, <https://www.wearebloom.org/>, Explore plant careers that align with your interests and passions and check out other plant powers that are different from your own. Once you have a few careers to highlight, research the career's salary, education level needed, and hear from others in that career at Seed Your Future, <https://www.seedyourfuture.org/careers>.

#### **Plant Career Diversity**

Did you like the careers highlighted in the virtual tour, but still feel they weren't quite what you were looking for? Check out these plant pioneers that have roles slightly different than those covered in the tour. What do you like about their work? What would you find challenging? What steps would you need to take in order to take a similar career path?

#### ***I liked the greenhouse manager job, but....***

"I want to own my own business." Check out Eliza Banks, the founder and CEO of [The Sill](#), the first company to sell houseplants online directly to consumers.

"I'd rather grow food indoors than tropical plants." Check out Nate Storey, scientist and founder of Plenty. Nate helped design an indoor produce growing system that could help feed more people using less space.

"I'd like to work in a University setting." Check out Melanie Parker

**I liked the horticulturist job, but...**

*"I want to positively impact my community."* Check out Karen Washington, the political activist, community organizer, and gardener at Rise and Root Farm in New York who feeds and empowers her community by giving it access to fresh, locally grown produce.

*"I want to combine my career with my interests and culture."* Check out Abra Lee, owner of the brand Conquer the Soil, LLC. that focuses on gardens, fashion, and culture. Abra also held the landscape manager position at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

**I liked the field biologist job, but...**

*"I want to connect nature's biodiversity with social justice."* Check out Dr. Thomas Easley, the Assistant Dean of Community and Inclusion at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He is a forester who has developed an understanding of why nature's diversity works so well and applies it to hip hop, health, environmental justice, and spirituality.

*"I really like studying animals."* Check out Jason Ward. Jason is a birder who lives in Atlanta and hosts *Birds of North America with Jason Ward*. He leads lots of bird walks in the area for the Atlanta Audubon Society.

**I liked the landscape architect job, but...**

*"I want to run my own business and work for individuals, not corporations."* Check out Alex Smith, owner of Alex Smith Garden Designs. He and his team design, install and maintain gardens that are sustainable and appropriate for homeowners.

*"I prefer environmental art."* Check out Agnes Denes, an environmental artist whose 1982 work, *Wheatfields-A Confrontation*, turned two acres in Manhattan into wheatfields prior to the construction of Battery Park City.

**Chef**

*"I like meat too, not just plants."* Check out Jiyeon Lee, a Korean Pop star turned bbq chef at the Heirloom Market BBQ in Atlanta.

*"I'm interested in teaching others what I know."* Check out Samin Nosrat, author of *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat* and won the 2018 James Beard Award for General Cookbook of the Year. She hosts and is executive producer of the Netflix series inspired by her book.

**Plant Lab Scientist**

*"I'm really interested in medicine."* Check out Alice Ball, a chemist who developed the first successful treatment for leprosy using oil from the chaulmoogra tree to create an injection for patients., whose efforts were lost to history until very recently.

*"I want to be a writer."* Check out Hope Jahren, geochemist, geobiologist, and writer of the book *Lab Girl*. Jahren is a lover of nature and an advocate for women in science.