

Compose your own music for seeds!

COMMUNITY SOUND GARDEN

VIDEO PROJECT

Westben is calling for poems, songs, and soundscapes from people/families of all ages!

Send us videos as your piece and seeds grow. Start your sonic seeding adventure in the left column!



Poem

Every time you care for your seeds, listen beside them for 1 minute.

Note what you hear. Begin to create a poem out of the sounds. Read it to your seeds.

Song

Every time you care for your seeds, listen beside them for 1 minute.

Sing to your seeds. Try improvising with the sounds around you. See if a melody arises after doing this each time. See if it develops each time.

Soundscape

Every time you care for your seeds, listen beside them for 1 minute.

Record what you hear on your phone. Assemble your recordings in a Digital Audio Workstation (email Westben if you need help). Play with the recordings! Rearrange them, overlap them, cut them up.



Did you know that sound helps plants grow?

Recent scientific evidence shows that sound contributes to plant growth and resilience. Humans hear sound through their eardrums. Fruit flies use their antennae to hear sound, while snakes use their jawbones! Plants are highly sensitive organisms that use sound to react to their environment. Sound waves travel efficiently through soil and help the roots grow. Did you know that bees buzz at a certain frequency which signals flowering plants to produce pollen! Here's a question: do plants *make* sound? Yes! Plants emit quiet audio acoustic emissions ranging between 10-240 Hz (that's a little lower than the lowest note of the piano to just below middle C). They also emit ultrasonic acoustic emissions outside of human hearing (20-300 kHz)! Your dog can hear these ultrasonic frequencies (up to 45 kHz) and bats too—they really are the ultimate sopranos; they can generate echolocation calls up to 150 kHz. Elephants are the bass players; they use infrasound below 20Hz for communication over long distances. Although plant bioacoustic research uses very specific parameters (e.g. volume, frequency, time length), why not try it yourself! Sing, speak, record with your plants and have fun!

References

Gagliano, M., Mancuso, S., & Robert, D. (2012). Towards understanding plant bioacoustics. *Trends in Plant Science*, 17(6), 323-325. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tplants.2012.03.002>

Jung J, Kim S-K, Kim JY, Jeong M-J and Ryu C-M (2018) Beyond Chemical Triggers: Evidence for Sound-Evoked Physiological Reactions in Plants. *Front. Plant Sci.* 9:25. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2018.00025

For more, check out "Plant Bioacoustics" and also see the National Conservancy of Canada's blog.

Send your pieces to westben@westben.ca Visit www.westben.ca for more details

Composed by Ben Finley