

## Best Practice :1

**Activity Name:** Plant of the Day (Academic Year 2023-2024)

### **Goals:**

1. To identify ornamental, medicinal, edible, and ethnobotanical plants found near human habitation.
2. To encourage the regular collection of plants.
3. To enhance students' knowledge of plant taxonomy.
4. To identify medicinal and edible plants (including leaves, roots, pods, bark, gum, and flowers) that contribute to the local economy.

This activity was initiated in the academic year 2017-2018. As part of the activity, botany students collect plants daily and identify them using standard floras. They determine the botanical name, family, description, phenological stages, and the medicinal and edible values of each plant.

### **Commonly Displayed Plants:**

1. *Acacia auriculiformis* A. Cunn. ex Benth.
2. *Urena sinuata* (L.) Borssum
3. *Pogostemon benghalensis* (Burm. f.) Kuntze
4. *Sphaeranthus indicus* L.
5. *Raphanus sativus* L.
6. *Citrus limon* L.
7. *Amaranthus viridis* L.
8. *Anethum graveolens* L.
9. *Argemone mexicana* L.
10. *Ixora parviflora* Lam.
11. *Ipomoea cornea* Jacq.
12. *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.
13. *Syzygium jambos* (L.) Alst.
14. *Jatropha curcas* L.
15. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Thub.
16. *Calycopteris floribunda* (Roxb.) Pom.

17. *Zehneria japonica* (Thunb.) IHY Liu.
18. *Gossypium hirsutum* L.
19. *Blumea makolmii* (L.) DC.
20. *Cardia dichotoma* G. Forster.
21. *Ricinus communis* L.
22. *Chrysanthemum indicum* L.
23. *Antigonon leptopus* Hook & Arn.
24. *Pentas lanceolata* (Forssk.) Deflers.
25. *Dicliptera paniculata* (Forssk.) I. Darbysh.
26. *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M. King & H. Rob.
27. *Lantana camara* L.
28. *Moringa oleifera* Lam.
29. *Celosia cristata* L.
30. *Datura metel* L.
31. *Bauhinia racemosa* Lam.
32. *Barleria prionitis* L.
33. *Madhuca longifolia* (Koenig) Mac.
34. *Quisqualis indica* L.
35. *Canna indica* L.
36. *Cyamopsis tetragonolobus* L.
37. *Cymbopogon citratus* (DC.)
38. *Crossandra infundibuliformis* L.
39. *Ficus religiosa* L.
40. *Impatiens balsamina* L.
41. *Mimosa pudica* L.
42. *Oryza sativa* L.
43. *Murraya koenigii* L.
44. *Helianthus annuus* L.
45. *Brassica juncea* L.
46. *Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad. ex J.C. Wendl.

47. *Cajanus cajan* L.
48. *Coleus blumei* L.
49. *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (L.) Sw.
50. *Coccinia grandis* L.
51. *Annona reticulata* L.
52. *Justicia adhatoda* L.
53. *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth. in Hook.
54. *Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd. sp.
55. *Bauhinia variegata* L.
56. *Lawsonia inermis* L.
57. *Aegle marmelos* L.
58. *Ziziphus jujuba* Lam.
59. *Scoparia dulcis* L.
60. *Azadirachta indica* Juss.
61. *Michelia champaca* L.
62. *Ocimum sanctum* L.
63. *Psidium guajava* L.
64. *Annona squamosa* L.
65. *Ixora coccinea* L.
66. *Commelina benghalensis* L.
67. *Rosa indica* L.
68. *Jasminum sambac* (L.)
69. *Ficus racemosa* L.
70. *Morinda pubescens* J. E. Smith.

### Educational Value and Impact:

The daily collection and identification of these plants provide students with an engaging learning experience. By working directly with plants, students:

- Develop an appreciation for plant biodiversity.
- Strengthen their understanding of plant families and classification.
- Learn about the medicinal and edible properties of various plants, many of which have significant economic value.
- Gain practical skills in using field guides and floras for plant identification.

