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Dandelions



Shared by Global Action Plan, a Ballymun-based non-profit organisation, aiming to help individuals and communities develop solutions to the environmental and climate crises.

Things You Might Not Know About Dandelions - from Anita Sanchez, author of *The Teeth of the Lion*

Whether you love them or hate them, dandelions are among the most familiar plants in the world. They're one species that just about anyone can identify at a glance.

Dandelions are, quite possibly, the most successful plants that exist, masters of survival worldwide.

Before the invention of lawns, people praised the golden blossoms and lion-toothed leaves as a bounty of food, medicine and magic. Gardeners often weeded out the grass to make room for the dandelions. But somewhere in the twentieth century, humans decided that the dandelion was a weed. Nowadays, they're also the most unpopular plant in the neighborhood – but it wasn't always that way.

Dandelions are good for your lawn. Their wide-spreading roots loosen hard-packed soil, aerate the earth and help reduce erosion. The deep taproot pulls nutrients such as calcium from deep in the soil and makes them available to other plants. While most think they're a lawn killer, dandelions actually fertilize the grass.



17th April 24

Earth Day – 22nd April

Earth Day has been marked since 1970 when 20 million Americans first mobilised to call for greater protection for the planet. Events are now held in 192 countries worldwide, with the aim of holding sectors accountable for their role in the environmental crisis and calling for bold, creative, and innovative solutions.

The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040 and an ultimate goal of building a plastic-free future for generations to come.



To achieve a 60% reduction by 2040, EARTHDAY.ORG's goals are:

- Promoting widespread public awareness of the damage done by plastic to human, animal, and all biodiversity's health and demanding more research be conducted on its health implications;
- Rapidly phasing out all single use plastics by 2030 and achieving this phase out commitment in the United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution due in 2024;
- Demanding policies ending the scourge of fast fashion and the vast amount of plastic it produces and uses;
- Investing in innovative technologies and materials to build a plastic-free world.

Prayer for Earth Day *(shared by the Anglican Church of Australia)*

Let us pray. Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

24th April 24



O Lord,

May we today be touched by grace, fascinated and moved
by this your creation, energized by the power of
new growth at work in your world.

May we move beyond viewing this life only through a frame,
but

touch it and be touched by it,

know it and be known by it,

love it and be loved by it.

May our bodies, our minds, our spirits, learn a new rhythm
paced by the rhythmic pulse of the whole created order.

May spring come to us, be in us, and recreate life in us.

A prayer from The Chinook Psalter, which represents the Anglican Book of Common Prayer translated in the 19th Century into the Indigenous trade language of the Pacific Northwest, and then re-translated into English. The contents reflect the importance of the spiritual legacy of Native Americans, carrying forward their deep reverence for the natural world and the divine presence within it.