



The power of plants

Plants are amazing - they can make food out of air, water and light! They absorb carbon dioxide so reducing pollution and generate oxygen for the air we breathe. Essentially, plants help to keep us and the natural world healthy.

The UK is a global leader in bioscience and we have some of the best plant and agricultural scientists working in our universities and institutes.



Changing weather patterns can cause catastrophic losses if a plant blooms too soon or too late. Scientists are researching how climate change effects plants. This knowledge will help farmers and plant breeders to adapt plants to deal with shifting weather patterns.



To extend the growing season of sprouting broccoli, scientists are developing a fast-growing sprouting broccoli that goes from seed to harvest in 8-10 weeks. This has the potential to deliver two full crops a season or it could be grown all year round in protected conditions.



Up to 40% of global crop yields are lost to plants pests and diseases each year



23% of the UK's fruit and veg is grown in the UK

Around a quarter of our medicines contain materials taken from plants. The Madagascar periwinkle has yielded two drugs for the treatment of cancer.

