



Plant Mash-Up!

2021 Grand Prize Winner

Silver Birch Trees and Lavender combined for *Saving Bees and Air Pollution*



"Silver birch trees and lavender are a great combination. Silver birch are very effective at eliminating air pollution. They are able to absorb over 3100 kilos of CO₂ and capture over 79% of toxic particles in the air. They are able to house more than 300 insects - which is great for improving biodiversity. Lavender flowers, which contain both nectar and pollen, are awesome at attracting bees. According to scientists, bees are most attracted to colors of violet and blue; and lavender has both. Both plants function in normal temperatures - which makes them compatible and versatile."

**Kayla P., 7th grade
Warren, NJ**



Plant Mash-Up!

2021 Runner-up Winner



Boxelder Tree and Quaking Aspen combined for *Soil Erosion and Warming Rivers*

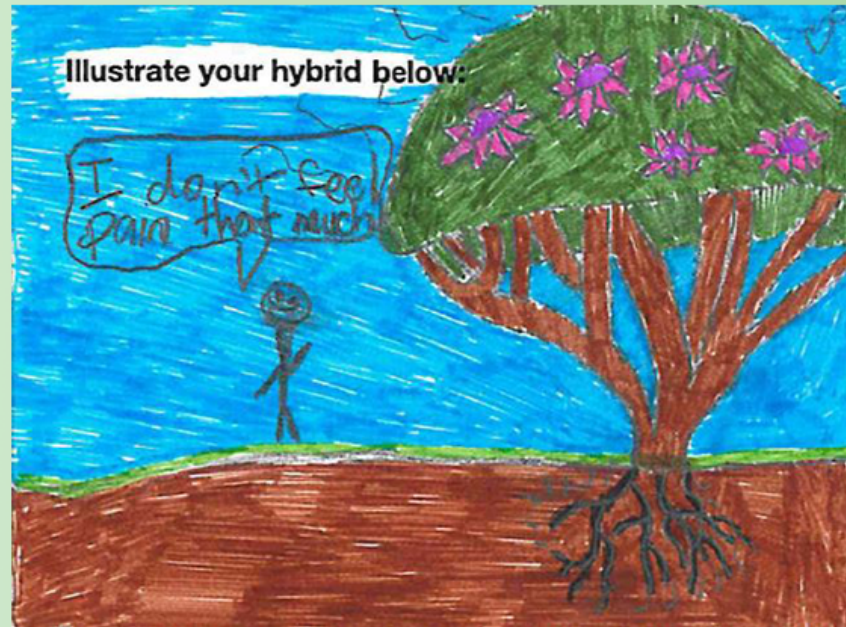
"Salmon are an integral part of the ecosystem here in Leavenworth, WA. A lack of riparian vegetation causes the rivers to warm, and the banks to erode. This affects the health of the river, and therefore the wildlife that depend on the water's resources. The boxelder tree is very adaptable, and a form of versatile maple. The wood has no commercial value, and would not be at risk of being logged. These trees are extremely efficient at creating shade, and grow well along river banks. Quaking aspens have very extensive root systems. These root structures are extremely resistant to human/animal activity, disease, and fire - all problems which this area faces. The strength of these root systems, combined with the helpful properties of the boxelder tree will make riparian zones healthier, stronger, and more hospitable to salmon and other types of wildlife."

Mia D., 8th grade, Leavenworth, WA



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2021 Sweepstakes Winner



Purple Coneflower and Weeping Fig combined for *Medicine and Fresh Air*

“When the fresh air is let out from the weeping fig, medicine from the purple coneflower travels with it, letting people breathe in fresh air while breathing in medicine for painkillers in a variety of ailments, including toothache, coughs, colds, sore throats, and snake bite.

**David J., 6th grade
White Cloud, MI**