



*Protecting Plants,  
Protecting Life*  
**2020**

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH INFORMATION

- The United Nations General Assembly declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The year is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development.
- Plants are the source of the air we breathe and most of the food we eat, yet we often don't think about keeping them healthy. This can have devastating results.
- Protecting plants from pests and diseases is far more cost effective than dealing with full-blown plant health emergencies.
- We can both prevent plant pests and diseases, and tackle them, in environmentally friendly ways - such as through integrated pest management.

## **A year to celebrate plants: UN proclaims 2020 the International Year of Plant Health**

Aim of 2020 as year to recognize and protect plant health

The year is expected to increase awareness among the public and policy makers of the importance of healthy plants and the necessity to protect them in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The International Year of Plant Health is a key initiative to highlight the importance of plant health to enhance food security, protect the environment and biodiversity, and boost economic development.

To trigger greater global collaboration to support plant health policies at all levels, which will contribute significantly to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Healthy plants are the foundation for all life, ecosystem functions and food security. Plant pests and diseases damage crops, reducing the availability of food and increasing its cost. Sustaining plant health protects the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests, addresses the effects of climate change, and supports efforts to end hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

IYPH overall objective “to raise awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development”.

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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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IYPH 2020 JAMAICA CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES	
JANUARY 31	Public Gardens Division Botanical & Horticultural Seminar (collaborative activity)
FEBRUARY 5	Jamaica 4H Clubs Youth in Agriculture Symposium (collaborative activity)
FEBRUARY 26	Hague Agricultural & Industrial Food (collaborative activity)
FEBRUARY / MARCH	Jamaica 4H Clubs Parish Achievement Days (collaborative activities)
MARCH 14	Forestry Department Annual Trek (collaborative activity)
MARCH 30 - APR.3	IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Meeting (participating country)/ Farmers' Month Activities in April
APRIL 13	Montpelier Agricultural Show (collaborative activity)
MAY 23	AGROFEST (collaborative activity)
JUNE 14 - 20	IYPH PLANT HEALTH WEEK (*week long activities)
JULY 13 - 17	CPHD FORUM (participating country)
JULY 31 - AUG. 2	Denbigh Agricultural Show (collaborative activity)
OCTOBER 5 - 8	International Plant Health Conference (participating country)
OCTOBER 12 - 16	Caribbean Week of Agriculture/World Food Day (IYPH activities to be integrated into these celebrations)
NOVEMBER 13	Minard Livestock Show (Collaborative Activity)
NOVEMBER 25	Eat Jamaican Day (IYPH activities to be integrated in this celebration)
<b>*PLANT HEALTH WEEK OF ACTIVITIES</b> <i>June 14, 2020 - IYPH 2020 Jamaica - Church Service</i> <i>June 15, 2020 - Safeguarding Ports (Public awareness activities at major ports of entry)</i> <i>June 16, 2020 - Educating Youths on Plant Health - Outreach activities at various schools across the island</i> <i>June 17, 2020 - "PLANT HEALTH DAY" OPEN DAY</i> <i>June 18, 2020 - RESEARCH &amp; DEVELOPMENT "IYPH" OPEN DAY</i> <i>June 19, 2020 - RADA "IYPH" OPEN DAY</i>	

## WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

- Everyone needs to avoid taking plants and plant products with them when travelling across borders.
- People in the transportation industries need to make sure that ships, airplanes, trucks and trains don't carry plant pests and diseases into new areas.
- Governments need to increase their support to national and regional plant protection organizations that are the first line of defense.

# PAWPAW

*(Carica papaya)*

This is one of the fastest growing plants and usually bears within one year. Most parts of the fruit contain papain, a digestive enzyme used extensively as a meat tenderizer. The fruit also has the enzyme carpain, which is extremely valuable to the heart. The pawpaw seeds are rich in Vitamin B 17, and are eaten to get rid of worms. The sap from the tree has been used for centuries for removing chiggers and the leaves are sometimes used as a substitute for soap. The skin of the fruit can be used for ulcers and infectious wounds. However, pregnant women are warned not to consume pawpaw, especially the green fruit. It was once believed that growing pawpaw near the home would affect the virility of the man of the house and make the occupiers sickly. It was thought that if animals are tied near the tree it saps their energy.

# 2020



**DECEMBER 2019**

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**FEBRUARY**

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# JANUARY

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			<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> IYPH Launch	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Public Gardens Division Botanical & Horticultural Seminar (Collaborative Activity)	

# LOVE BUSH

(*Cuscuta spp.*)

This parasitic vine spreads on hedges and fences profusely. It is used for baby's gripe, backaches and prickly heat. The name originated because children would throw a piece of Love Bush on fences or vines, calling the name of the one they fancied. If the Love Bush grew it was proof that the love was strong but if the Love Bush died, it indicated that the love was not returned.

2020

**JANUARY**

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**MARCH**

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# FEBRUARY

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2	3	4	5 Jamaica 4H Clubs Youth in Agriculture Symposium (Collaborative Activity)	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Jamaica	18 4-H	19 Clubs	20 Parish	21	22
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday Hague Agricultural & Industrial Show (Collaborative Activity)	27 Achievement	28 Days	29

# 2020



## BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Protect these insects

### GREEN LACEWINGS

Preys on aphids, whiteflies, leafhoppers, caterpillars, and mealybugs

### PRAYING MANTIS

Preys on caterpillars, moths, beetles, and crickets



### WASPS

Adults collect insects such as caterpillars for their young to eat. Wasps also act as pollinators.



### LADYBUGS

Preys on aphids, mites, whiteflies and beetles





**FEBRUARY**

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**APRIL**

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# MARCH

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1	2 Jamaica	3 4-H	4 Clubs	5 Parish	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Achievement	13 Days	14 Forestry Department Annual Trek (Collaborative Activity)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Meeting (participating country) Farmers' Motnh Activiities in April	31				

# GANJA

*(Cannabis sativa)*

Ganja is also called Wisdom Weed, marijuana, pot or Indian hemp. This herb was introduced into Jamaica by indentured farm labourers but has become widely used in society attracting more attention as its use spreads. In China and India, the common hemp, was used industrially for centuries in making rope, twine and coarse textiles. Smoking the inflorescence and young leaves of the plant is said to induce drowsiness, a distortion of time and space and a general feeling of euphoria and wellbeing. Medical Science has proven that it benefits mankind in various ways, such as inhibiting nausea in terminal cancer and alopecia patients. It also helps in the relief of bronchial asthma and is used in the treatment of glaucoma. Ganja also produces hypoglycemia and therefore could be used in the treatment of diabetes.

# 2020



**MARCH**

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**MAY**

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# APRIL

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			<b>1</b> IPPC Commission Farmers' Month Activities	<b>2</b> on Phytosanitary Meeting in April	<b>3</b> (participating country)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Good Friday	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Easter Monday Montpellier Agricultural Show	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
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# WOMEN'S TONGUE

*(Albizza lebbek)*

The fruit pods grow in great numbers on the trees and when dry they constantly rattle and it is from this noise that the tree has acquired its name. Leaves have tremendous medicinal and nutritional value. It acts as an astringent and is used for boils, coughs, flu, lung problems and gingivitis. The bark is used for treating inflammation and fish poisoning, while the roots can be used to alleviate spasms and vitalize the cardiovascular system.

2020

**APRIL**

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**JUNE**

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# MAY

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23 AGROFEST (Collaborative Activity)
24	25 Labour Day (Observed)	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# MANGO

*(Mangifera indica)*

This plant originated in India and is now found in the tropics. There are several species of mangoes in Jamaica, each with its own peculiar scent and flavour. When eaten raw, the fruit yields Vitamin B1, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin B12, Iron, Carbohydrates and Potassium. The leaves smell like turpentine and have been used to prepare a mouthwash, good for hardening gums, by infusing two leaves in a cup of boiling water.

2020



**MAY**

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**JULY**

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# JUNE

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14 IYPH 2020 Jamaica Church Service	15 Safeguarding Ports (Public awareness activities at ports of entry)	16 Educating Youth on Plant Health - Outreach activities at various schools across the island	17 "Plant Health Day" Open Day	18 "Research & Development Division IYPH" Open Day	19 RADA "IYPH" Open Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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# GUINEA HEN WEED

*(Petiveria alliacea)*

Research has found that this plant is effective in the treatment of cancer, as two of the phytochemical compounds in the plant are believed to destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed. Guinea Hen Weed, known locally as Gully Root and Garlic Weed, was reputed to boost the immune system and has been proven to be effective against harmful organisms, such as, bacteria, fungi, and viruses. It is rich in antioxidants and used to treat cold and flu symptoms and other respiratory conditions. It is effective in reducing fevers, relieving pain and lowering blood sugar. It is a traditional remedy for arthritis and rheumatism. It can also be used to stimulate proper digestion and to relieve digestive problems such as bloating and flatulence. It promotes the release of toxins through increased sweat and urine production. However, pregnant women are warned to avoid the plant as it may cause spontaneous abortions.

# 2020



**JUNE**

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# JULY

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12	13 <small>CPHD</small>	14 <small>Forum</small>	15 <small>(Participating Country)</small>	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <small>Denbigh Agricultural Show (Collaborative Activity)</small>	

# LIGNUM VITAE

*(Guaiacum officinale)*

The colloquial name, which means wood of life, was derived from the potential of the resin to treat skin diseases and syphilis. The resin can be used for chronic forms of rheumatism, scrofula, dysmenorrhea, and toothache. The leaves and bark are a mild laxative and diuretic. The plant also promotes excretion of uric acid and can be used internally and topically for gout, joint pain and swelling. The wood has also been used over the years to produce beautiful furniture.

# 2020



**JULY**

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**SEPTEMBER**

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# AUGUST

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<b>2</b> Denbigh Agricultural Show (Collaborative Activity)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Independence Day	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
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Plants with Natural  
Pest Repellent

**MARIGOLD**

Naturally protect crops  
from:  
- slugs, snails, bugs and  
spider mites

**THYME**

Naturally protect crops  
from:  
- weevils

**LEMON GRASS**

Naturally protect crops  
from:  
- weevils

**NEEM**

Naturally protect crops  
from:  
sucking pests, such as,  
aphids and white flies

2020

**AUGUST**

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**OCTOBER**

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# SEPTEMBER

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# CHEWSTICK

*(Gouania lupuloides urd.)*

This indigenous plant grows profusely throughout the woodlands of Jamaica. A large percentage of the population in the West Indies would traditionally cut sticks about 6 inches long from the vine to clean their teeth. Chewing the end of the stick produces a bitter cleansing foam. Persons who used chewsticks were noted for their white sparkling teeth, healthy gums and rare cases of dental decay. Research has shown that this natural product has good antibacterial and anticariogenic properties.

2020



**SEPTEMBER**

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**NOVEMBER**

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# OCTOBER

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4	5 International Plant Health Conference (Participating Country)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Caribbean	13 Week	14 of	15 Agriculture	16 World Food Day	17
18	19 National Heroes' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# SPANISH NEEDLE

*(Bidens pilosa)*

This outstanding herb is found on lawns, meadows or pastures with flowers showing white petals around a yellow disc. It is said to have anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antiseptic properties. As a result, the herb can be used as a mouthwash for sore gums and sore mouths and is also good for joint discomfort and swellings. The flower is soaked in white rum for alleviating toothaches and the tea has been used for colds, colic and stomach ailments.

2020





OCTOBER

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# NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

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8	9	10	11	12	13 Minard Livestock Show (Collaborative Activity)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Eat Jamaican Day	26	27	28
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# JAMAICAN SARSAPARILLA

(*Smilax* spp)

This climbing evergreen shrub has prickly stems and round to oblong leaves with spines on the lower side. The dried root is used for arthritis and other body pains. It is also reputed to be a blood purifier and regarded as an aphrodisiac. It has been successfully used for scrofula disease and is an excellent relief from ringworms and other parasitic diseases of the skin. Sarsaparilla has been recommended as an effective antidote for poison and is also recommended for expelling gas from the stomach.

2020

**NOVEMBER**

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# DECEMBER

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20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31		



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International Plant  
Protection Convention



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**

2020

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