

Plant the Moon & Plant Mars Challenge



A global science experiment, citizen science project, and incentive challenge to help NASA learn to live and work on the Moon and Mars.

What is the Plant the Moon & Plant Mars Challenge?

The Plant the Moon and Plant Mars Challenge is designed as a support to NASA's Artemis Program to connect space science and planetary research with down-to-Earth concepts to introduce students to genuine, rigorous academic research. A program of the [Institute of Competition Sciences](#) (ICS) in collaboration with the [University of Central Florida CLASS Exolith Laboratory](#), NASA Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute ([SSERVI](#)), the Plant the Moon Challenge is a global science experiment, learning activity and inspirational project-based-learning challenge to see who can grow the best crops using lunar or Martian regolith simulants.

How does the challenge work?

Students of all ages are challenged to see who can grow the best crops in lunar or Martian regolith simulants. Participants design and conduct a research experiment to determine what parameters will allow the best crops to grow on a future mission to the Moon or Mars. ***Projects are conducted over a 10-week grow-period in which weekly engagement activities and three virtual events are provided for teams. At the conclusion of the grow-period, teams submit Project Reports detailing their experiments, data, and findings.*** Expert reviewers then assist our Science Advisory Board in evaluating the project reports to select Best-In-Show award winners in four categories. For more information on the program visit: www.plantthemoon.com

Each year has two seasons for the challenge, centered around a 10-week experiment grow period.

	SPRING SEASON	FALL SEASON
Registration Period:	October - February	July - September
Grow Period:	February - April	September - November

Guidelines for the final report and award and recognition categories vary by division.

**ELEMENTARY
DIVISION**
Grades K - 5

**MIDDLE
DIVISION**
Grades 6 - 8

**SECONDARY
DIVISION**
Grades 9 - 12

**COLLEGE
DIVISION**
Post-Secondary



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Eligibility & Cost

- Team size of up to 10 members (recommended, not a firm size. Teachers may choose their own team size). Students of all K-12 and undergraduate levels are eligible to participate.
- No limits to the number of teams from a school or organization
- Registration Costs
 - \$399 plus shipping per team (including all materials, events, and simulant kit)
 - Space Grant Consortia support grants are available in some states, visit the PTMC website for the up-to-date list of participating states.

Resources & Contact Information

Sign up for the **Plant the Moon Challenge Newsletter** at www.PlantTheMoon.com

For additional information, reach out to:

ICS STEM Programs Coordinator Moriah Wright at Moriah@CompetitionSciences.org

