



The 2011-2012 Fairchild Challenge / BGCI Global Competition and The 2011-2012 Fairchild Challenge Global Showcase

What is The Fairchild Challenge?

The Fairchild Challenge is an annual, standards-based environmental education outreach program designed and initiated by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, Florida, USA. The program offers a menu of engaging, multidisciplinary competitions or “challenges” for elementary, middle and high schools. The Fairchild Challenge is now celebrating its tenth year in the Miami, Florida region. Additionally, Satellite Partner sites offer The Fairchild Challenge in other regions around the world. During the 2010-2011 program year, The Fairchild Challenge had more than 100,000 student and teacher participants in its Miami-region program alone. For more information, visit www.fairchildchallenge.org.

What is BGCI?

Linking more than 650 botanic gardens and other partners in 120 countries, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) forms the world's largest plant conservation network. From grass-roots action to global policy development, BGCI operates at all levels to achieve plant conservation, environmental education and development goals. BGCI aims to ensure that plants are recognized as one of the world's most important natural resources, providing essential ecosystem services and underpinning all life on earth. For more information, visit www.bgci.org.

What are the goals of the *Global Competition* and the *Global Showcase*?

The *Global Competition* and the *Global Showcase* provide opportunities to promote the sharing of information and knowledge regarding plant-based and environmental topics and educate broader audiences worldwide. Both the *Global Competition* and the *Global Showcase* provide students with unique opportunities to share their work with, and learn from participants in other regions around the world. The *Global Competition* is being offered in partnership with BGCI.

What is the difference between the *Global Competition* and the *Global Showcase*?

There is one *Global Competition* and three *Global Showcase* challenges being offered during the 2011-2012 program year (details for each are listed below).

For the *Global Competition*, the top five entries from each participating site will be sent to BGCI and entered into the final round of the competition. A panel of judges will then make the final selection of winners.

For each of the *Global Showcase* challenges, the top entries from each participating site will be promoted and featured online. Unlike the *Global Competition*, no winners will be selected for the *Global Showcase*.

What is this year's Fairchild Challenge *Global Competition*?

This year's exciting *Global Competition* will commemorate the London 2012 Summer Olympics by reviving an ancient tradition – the creation of a wreath, worthy of crowning a winning Olympic athlete. Participants will have the opportunity to research and explore their regional plant biodiversity and apply their creative design skills, while taking part in this international competition that will showcase plants from around the world and promote plant conservation.

We are excited to announce that *The 2011-2012 Fairchild Challenge / BGCI Global Competition* has been accepted by London 2012 and the International Olympic Committee as part of the *London 2012 Inspire Programme*. Photographs of the winning wreaths will be displayed in London during the London 2012 Summer Olympics.

What are this year's Fairchild Challenge *Global Showcase* challenges?

For the 2011-2012 program year, The Fairchild Challenge is offering the following three exciting *Global Showcase* challenges:

- 1) **Artwork** (themes vary, depending on each Fairchild Challenge Satellite Partner program's requirements)
- 2) **School garden / habitat restoration projects**
- 3) **Environmental action projects** - within students' homes, throughout their schools and across their communities

What are the benefits of participating in this year's *Global Competition* and *Global Showcase*?

Top entries in both the *Global Competition* and in each *Global Showcase* challenge will not only receive international exposure and recognition but will also serve as powerful educational tools, raising awareness about various environmental topics and issues among international audiences.

What are the benefits of participating in this year's *Global Competition* and *Global Showcase*? (continued)

The top entries in this year's *Global Competition* will be displayed in London during the 2012 Summer Olympics. They will also be featured online, both on [BGCI's website](#) and [The Fairchild Challenge - Global webpage](#).

For each *Global Showcase* challenge, the top entries from each participating Fairchild Challenge site will be featured online, on [The Fairchild Challenge - Global webpage](#).

Who can participate in this year's *Global Competition* and *Global Showcase*?

Participation in this year's *Global Competition* for middle and high schools is open to all botanic gardens around the world, as well as participating Fairchild Challenge programs, BGCI members and sites participating in Plant Conservation Day (including AZH members).

Participation in any of this year's three *Global Showcase* challenges for elementary, middle and high schools is open only to participating Fairchild Challenge programs.

How can I participate?

If you are from any botanic garden worldwide, or are a BGCI member or Plant Conservation Day host site (including AZH members), for details about how to participate in *The 2011-2012 Fairchild Challenge / BGCI Global Competition*, visit www.bgci.org/education/fairchild-challengebgciglobalcompetition2011.

At this time participation in the *Global Showcase* is only open to Fairchild Challenge programs. To find out more about becoming a Fairchild Challenge Satellite Partner site, visit [our website](#) or email challenge@fairchildgarden.org.

Where can I find more information about the *Global Competition* and the *Global Showcase*?

If you are unsure whether or not you are eligible to participate in this year's global opportunities, or if you have any questions or need additional information, please email us at challenge@fairchildgarden.org.

You can also find more information about these global opportunities on the following websites: www.fairchildchallenge.org and www.bgci.org/education/fair2.