

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Angie Burnett
Plant Biologist

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Hi there! I am Dr Angie Burnett – A plant biologist



Where do I work?

I currently work at the University of Cambridge. In my work as a plant biologist, I have also worked in Australia and the United States of America!

What did I like doing when I was at school?

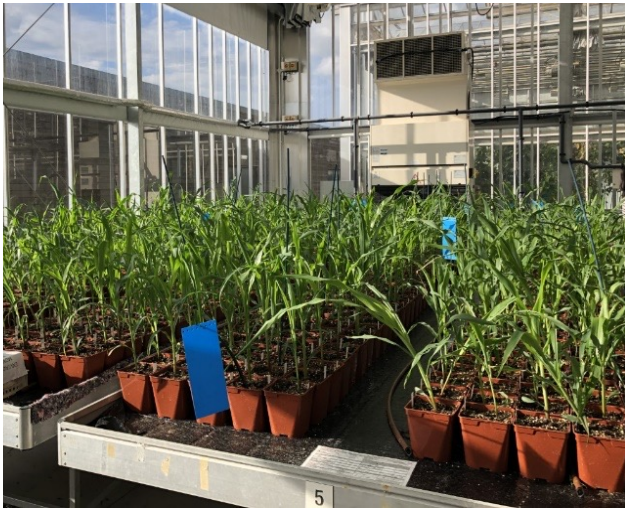
I loved reading and writing, and you would often find me sitting in a tree or on a swing with a book. I also really liked animals and plants.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love being outdoors and travelling to different parts of the world. I love mountains and my favourite weather is snow, especially when I am drinking hot chocolate!

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What do I do as a plant biologist?



Plant biologists are interested in understanding how plants work. I grow plants and see how they react to different conditions that make it more difficult for them to grow. Some plant biologists travel all over the world and other plant biologists look at very tiny pieces of plants.

How does what I do make the world a better place?

All our food comes from plants. By understanding what makes it easy or difficult for plants to grow, we can grow better plants to help us produce more food. This is especially important because the population of the world is growing and the climate is changing.

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What I like about my job

It is fun to plan an experiment with plants and see what happens. Watching the plants grow is very rewarding. Often the results from our experiments are very surprising. I also love working with other people so that we can make our experiments the best they can be.

Challenges I have faced

Sometimes the plants don't behave themselves, and I have to start the experiment all over again. That can be frustrating – but it usually works out in the end!



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If you want to be a plant biologist, you need:

- ✿ **to be patient** as plants can take a long time to grow!
- ✿ **to be good at writing** - we write about what we've found out so other plant biologists can learn about it
- ✿ **to enjoy working with your hands** as plant biologists are very practical and do hands-on experiments
- ✿ **to be creative** - designing experiments is a creative process involving asking lots of questions



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Discussion time

- ✳️ Would you like to be a plant biologist like Dr Angie Burnett?

Why? Why not?

- ✳️ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a plant biologist?
- ✳️ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for plant biology

[Science for One](#) – for ages 5-7 see 'Box', 'Playdough', 'Egg Box' and 'Coat-hanger'

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. For more about plants see:

- Plants in the soil affect the survival of plants and worms
- Bamboo could be used to make cricket bats
- Can plants hear and respond to sound?
- Tree restoration – it's now or never
- Bees and caterpillars can change the evolution of plants
- How plants know good microbes from bad ones



Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust