Record number of flowers bloom

12th January, 2015

Botanists in the U.K. are amazed at how many flowers are in bloom this winter. They said that in normal years, between 20 and 30 species of flowers and plants are open. However, on New Year's Day, scientists found 368 different species in bloom. Scientists believe the record number of flowers in bloom is because of climate change. Last year was the warmest year Britain has ever had. Botanist Dr Tim Rich told the BBC about his surprise at the number of flowers he saw at the start of this year. He said: "Fifty years ago, people looking for plants in flower at the start of the year found 20 species. This year the total has amazed us. We are stunned." He said some flowers were in bloom five months early.

Doctor Rich explained how the changing weather was affecting flowers that are usually killed by the cold in December. He said: "We are now in our fourth mild winter. Normally flowers get frosted off by Christmas but this year it hasn't happened." He added: "We thought that the snow and hard frosts before Christmas would have finished most flowering…but it seems not to be the case." The most common plants in flower were daisies and dandelions. Britain's weather agency, the Meteorological Office, described the climate for last year. It said: "All months except August were warmer than average, and this was the warmest year on record for the UK. It was also wetter than average for many locations."

Sources: *BBC / Met Office.gov / Daily Mail*

Writing

People should not cut and sell flowers. They should stay in the ground. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

botanists / this winter / plants / in bloom / climate change / surprise / amazed / changing weather / the cold / mild winter / weather agency / warmer than average

True / False

a) Botanists are surprised at how many flowers are in bloom this winter. T / F

b) More than 300 flowers are in bloom in the UK than is usual for winter. T / F

c) Scientists say climate change is not the reason for the flowers opening. T / F

d) A botanist said 50 years ago, people could find 200 species open. T / F

e) The botanist said there have now been 14 mild winters in a row. T / F

f) The botanist said the frost usually finished most flowering before Xmas. T / F

g) The most common flowers in bloom were daisies and dandelions. T / F

h) August was warmer than average last year in the U.K. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	amazed	a.	due to
2	normal	b.	influencing
3.	because of	c.	beginning
4.	start	d.	usually
5.	early	e.	weather patterns
6.	affecting	f.	shocked
7.	normally	g.	places
8.	climate	h.	too soon
9.	except	i.	usual
10.	locations	j.	excluding

Discussion – Student A

a) What's your favourite flower and why?

b) How important are flowers?

c) Why do people like flowers so much?

d) What flowers are important in your country?

e) What do you think of gardening?

f) When have you given or received flowers as a present?

g) What flowers do you dislike?

h) What's the most useful flower in the world?

Phrase Match

1. amazed at how many flowers are in
2. between 20 and 30
3. the record
4. the warmest year Britain
5. some flowers were in bloom
6. flowers that are usually killed
7. We are now in our fourth mild
8. The most common plants
9. All months except August were warmer
10. It was also wetter than average

a. winter
b. five months early
c. in flower
d. by the cold in December
e. bloom this winter
f. for many locations
g. species of flowers
h. than average
i. number of flowers
j. has ever had

Discussion – Student B

a) Do you prefer hot or cold weather?

b) What problems do flowers have?

c) Do you prefer wild flowers or garden flowers?

d) What would it be like to work as a gardener?

e) What do you know about botany?

f) What advice would you have for a gardener?

g) Why are red roses so popular in some countries?

h) What questions would you like to ask a botanist?

Spelling

1. <u>zaamde</u> at how many flowers are in bloom
2. on New Year's Day, <u>sisttecins</u> found 368
3. between 20 and 30 <u>sipseec</u> of flowers
4. because of <u>celmtia</u> change
5. Rich told the BBC about his <u>erirpuss</u>
6. We are <u>dsnnetu</u>
7. changing weather was <u>egcatfinf</u> flowers
8. this year it hasn't <u>nhpdaeep</u>
9. The most <u>ommocn</u> plants
10. Britain's weather <u>cyenga</u>
11. All months <u>epetxc</u> August
12. wetter than <u>geravae</u>

Role Play

Role A – Roses
You think roses are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their flowers aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): sunflowers, orchids or daisies.

Role B – Sunflowers
You think sunflowers are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their flowers aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): roses, orchids or daisies.

Role C – Orchids
You think orchids are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their flowers aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): sunflowers, roses or daisies.

Role D – Daisies
You think daisies are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their flowers aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least beautiful of these (and why): sunflowers, orchids or roses.

Speaking – Beautiful

Rank these with your partner. Put the most beautiful flowers at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- tulip
- carnation
- poppy
- sunflower
- rose
- orchid
- daisy
- dandelion

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. h
6. b	7. d	8. e	9. j	10. g

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.