

Seedlings for Cape Verde



Change begins with Knowledge

The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.

1. This is Seedlings.

João Luís Barreto Guimarães is a Portuguese poet. He talks about how love and nature can be similar in his poem, “Sol de janeiro.”

Nunca tanto como hoje reparei com atenção
na
luz do sol de janeiro. Forte
mas delicada. Furtiva
mas
demorada. Não arde nem faz tremer.
Não é densa nem clara. A
luz
do sol em janeiro:
assim é o nosso amor
oculto pela tinta dos dias apenas
espreita uma aberta
(uma distração das nuvens)
para luzir e irromper
(nunca antes como hoje precisei
tanto que o vento lhe
desse oportunidade).
O nosso amor é janeiro:
mesmo se o julgo esquecido
sei que
vem sempre lá.



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2. This is Seedlings.

There have been nearly 5,000 suspected cases of Zika Virus in Cape Verde since September, and the Ministry of Health is working hard to monitor those infected. Zika has been found on Santiago, Maio, Fogo and Boa Vista, though there have not yet been any infants born with neurological problems as a result, as there have been in other areas of the world. Doctors encourage anyone with any combination of pain in eyes, joints, or muscles, fatigue, fever, chills, loss of appetite, headache, skin rash, eye redness, or vomiting to get tested for Zika Virus, though the disease sometimes has no symptoms at all. Zika Virus is transmitted by a certain species of mosquitoes which bite during the day and tend to live in or near homes. The World Health Organization recommends that people remove any standing water in or around their homes if possible. Even a cup with a centimeter of water in it is enough for the mosquitoes to breed in. Those who sleep during the day, such as children and the elderly, should use mosquito nets treated with insecticide. Keep doors and windows closed to prevent mosquitoes from entering. When travelling to an area with a lot of standing water, wear insect repellent and clothing that covers your skin. Pregnant women should take extra precautions.

The Zika Virus outbreak is a result of global travel and climate change. When infected people travel to a new location, local mosquitos can bite them and the mosquitos then become carriers of the virus. The mosquitos that carry the virus thrive in warm areas, and as the global temperature increases, the mosquitoes' habitat is expanding.

3. This is Seedlings.

As the climate changes and farming becomes a less stable way to make a living, many are turning to livelihoods that are not as directly impacted by warming temperatures. Some former farmers have found success as beekeepers, making up to 101,700 CVE per month with just twelve hives. The honey sells well at home and in international markets as a sweetener and antibacterial salve, and even the wax can be sold to businesses making soap, candles, or polishes.

But some beekeepers are reporting problems with an insect called a pirate or cuckoo bee, so named because they can take over a beehive by laying their eggs inside it. When the cuckoo bee larvae hatches, it kills and eats the larvae of the honey bees. Female cuckoo bees may even kill the honey bee queen and replace her. Cuckoo bees look different from honey bees, and may sometimes wait at the entrance of a hive for a long time before they have an opportunity to go in. Some beekeepers suggest coating the hive entrance with a non-toxic, sticky substance to trap the cuckoo bees before they have a chance to enter.



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4. This is Seedlings.

Jorge Sousa Braga is a poet and doctor who lives in Porto. He has written many books of poetry, including some for children. Here is a short poem of his called "O Apanhador de Cogumelos."

O mais difícil não é distinguir
entre um boleto pão-de-ló e um

boleto-de-satanás o mais difícil
não é andar quilómetros e quiló-

metros por uma floresta e chegar
ao fim com os pés enxutos.

O mais difícil é não sucumbir
à beleza desse mundo que se

alimenta de detritos em putre-
facção e onde não há flores

nem frutos



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