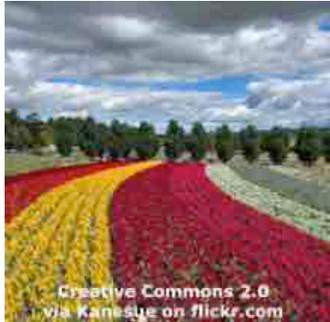


Grow a Garden game breaks record for concurrent users

23rd June 2025



A game about gardening has broken the record for the most users being online at the same time. The horticultural-themed game is called Grow a Garden. It first broke the record for simultaneous users on the 14th of June, when there were 16.4 million

concurrent users. This surpassed the previous milestone of 14.3 million set by the blockbuster game Fortnite. Grow a Garden then shattered its own record on the 21st of June, with 21.3 million players. This made it the most-played video game ever at a single moment. The game is owned by the online game platform Roblox. A spokesperson said the game's "global success is fuelled by exceptional user retention and vibrant social interactions".

Grow a Garden is a simulation game in which players tend to a patch of bare, virtual land. Budding gardeners buy seeds, plant vegetables, and grow flowers and herbs. They then harvest their produce to earn in-game currency and resources. Users can also upgrade their garden to obtain better tools and new areas. Good gardeners can level up to unlock rare seeds, exotic crops, and new biomes (like underwater gardens or magical forests). The BBC asked behavioural expert Professor Andrew Przybylski on whether the game could cultivate a love of gardening. He said: "It is unlikely that a game like this will encourage real-world gardening any more than Super Mario encourages plumbing."

Sources:
bbc.com / *sherwood.news* / *soapcentral.com* / *wikipedia.com*

Writing

Gardening is one of the world's best hobbies. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

game / gardening / record / users / blockbuster / players / video / global success / simulation / patch / land / vegetables / herbs / currency / seeds / forests / plumbing

True / False

- 1) A game people played in gardens has broken a concurrent user record. T / F
- 2) Grow a Garden beat the record set by Minecraft. T / F
- 3) More than 16 million people played Grow a Garden at one time. T / F
- 4) The Grow a Garden maker said social interactions fuelled the record. T / F
- 5) In the game, players have to fight killer weeds. T / F
- 6) Grow a Garden players can sell the flowers and herbs they grow. T / F
- 7) Grow a Garden players can level up to unlock access to magical forests. T / F
- 8) An expert said Grow a Garden players will probably garden for real. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. at the same time | a. look after |
| 2. surpassed | b. smash hit |
| 3. blockbuster | c. boosted |
| 4. shattered | d. champion |
| 5. fuelled | e. beat |
| 6. tend to | f. specialist |
| 7. earn | g. develop |
| 8. expert | h. simultaneously |
| 9. cultivate | i. receive |
| 10. encourage | j. smashed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of gaming?
- c) Would you like to play the Grow a Garden game?
- d) What would you like to grow?
- e) Do you think you would be good at gardening?
- f) What do you know about biomes?
- g) What do you know about plumbing?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the game's maker?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. the most users being online | a. of bare, virtual land |
| 2. The horticultural- | b. previous milestone |
| 3. This surpassed the | c. love of gardening |
| 4. Grow a Garden then shattered | d. rare seeds |
| 5. vibrant social | e. at the same time |
| 6. players tend to a patch | f. expert |
| 7. harvest their produce to earn | g. themed game |
| 8. Good gardeners can level up to unlock | h. its own record |
| 9. behavioural | i. interactions |
| 10. the game could cultivate a | j. in-game currency |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of gardening?
- What do you know about the Grow a Garden game?
- Is real gardening or virtual gardening better?
- Why do you think Grow a Garden is so popular?
- What is your favourite game?
- What is your favourite garden?
- What are the good things about gardening?
- What advice do you have for gardeners?

Spelling

- The llirtuoahurct-themed game
- broke the record for eutassunmol users
- there were 16.4 million erctoucnnr users
- This rusdsxae the previous milestone of 14.3
- fuelled by icneapxolet user retention
- rvbanit social interactions
- Grow a Garden is a iumsainolt game
- earn in-game cuycrner and resources
- toxeci crops
- new embios
- ttuvicael a love of gardening
- any more than Super Mario encourages nbmpilug

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What theme does the article say the Grow a Garden game has?
2.	What game has the record for the second most users playing at one time?
3.	Which game saw 14.3 million users playing simultaneously?
4.	What is the name of the company that owns the Grow a Garden game?
5.	What kind of social interactions did the makers say the game had?
6.	What do players grow besides vegetables and flowers?
7.	What can players earn besides in-game currency?
8.	What kind of forests can players access?
9.	What did an expert say it was unlikely the game would cultivate?
10.	What game did the expert say might not create a love of plumbing?

Speaking – Games

Rank these with your partner. Put the best games at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Grow a Garden | • Formula Car Racing |
| • Minecraft | • Super Mario |
| • Grand Theft Auto | • Pokémon |
| • Fortnite | • Call of Duty |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.