Enhancing Active Ageing through Organic Gardening

D2.2: Smart Gardening Apps Report

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Executive Summary

The goal of D2.2 – Smart Gardening Apps Report is to identify, analyse, and evaluate smart gardening mobile applications that can be integrated into the training programme developed under Work Package 3 of the SeniORGarden project.

The deliverable includes a list of ten smart gardening apps evaluated through a structured review process. Each app is assessed based on its functional features, usability, language support, accessibility, user experience and overall suitability for seniors. These evaluations result in a detailed profile of each app, identifying both its potential and its limitations when used in the context of communal organic gardening for active ageing.

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1   Introduction

1.1   Purpose

The purpose of D2.2 – Smart Gardening Apps Report is to conduct comprehensive desk research on existing mobile applications related to smart gardening, with the aim of identifying those most suitable for integration into the training programme developed under Work Package 3 (WP3).

1.2   Relation to other WPs and Deliverables

The findings from D2.2 will feed the development of WP3 ensuring that the training material will be complemented by technologically smart gardening practices to be used by seniors in the establishment and maintenance of their organic gardens.

The identified mobile applications will be published on the project website to ensure open and easy access for the targeted audiences.

1.3   Structure of the Deliverable

The deliverable begins with an overview of the methodological approach used to identify and evaluate relevant smart gardening applications. It then presents a detailed analysis of each selected app, examining their features, usability, accessibility, and suitability for senior users and concludes with key findings. The document concludes with a comparable analysis of the apps on the basis of the requirements and needs of the SeniORGarden project.

2 Methodology

For the identification and reporting of at least five smart gardening applications, an internal Google Form was designed featuring the following sections:

General Information

- App Name
- About this app
- Platform(s): (e.g., iOS, Android)
- Price/Cost

Functional Features

Main features

Language and Accessibility

Languages available
Accessibility features

User Experience

Ease of use & Interface

Feedback and Reviews

Average user rating
Common complaints

Suitability for SeniORGarden

Potential barriers for seniors

Figure 1: Reporting Tool Sections

To support the desk research for T2.2, a keyword-based search methodology was employed to identify relevant smart gardening applications. The consortium used targeted search terms across app stores, search engines, and thematic repositories. Key terms included combinations such as "smart gardening app," "plant care app," "organic garden monitoring," "digital gardening assistant," "garden planner," "irrigation scheduler," and "plant identifier."

While the market for smart gardening applications is extensive, the consortium focused specifically on apps that are free to use and accessible to seniors with limited digital literacy, ensuring their suitability for integration into the training programme developed under WP3.

3 Smart Gardening Apps

3.1 Gandroid

The first smart gardening app identified is Gandroid, which offers helpful information for cultivating and growing vegetables. More information is presented in the table below.
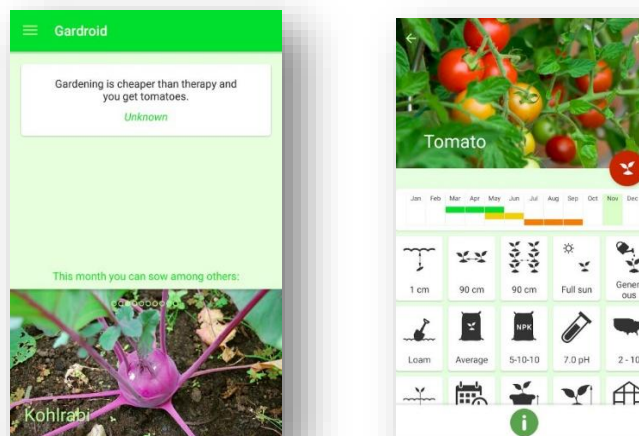
Table 1: Smart Gardening App 1

General Information	
App Name	Gardroid
About this app	Gardroid assists users in growing their own vegetables by offering helpful information on cultivation techniques for a wide variety of vegetables. It is designed to support users throughout the gardening process, from sowing to harvesting.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version available • Freemium model with additional features via in-app purchases
Functional Features	
Main Features	• It provides detailed growing instructions for many vegetables (e.g., sowing period, spacing, harvesting time) • It allows users to track planting dates and set reminders for watering, fertilizing, or harvesting • It offers a personal garden diary for users to monitor their plant growth and activities • It includes climate-specific recommendations, helping users adapt gardening tasks to local conditions • Easy-to-use interface with visual icons and simple navigation, making it accessible for beginners and seniors • It supports customization of garden layout and crop tracking
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	• User-Friendly Interface: large icons, simple menus • Visual aids: Planting schedules and tasks are supported by visual cues and color-coded indicators, aiding users with limited reading ability or cognitive challenges • Low text complexity: Instructions and plant information are written in clear, concise language, making the app suitable for users with lower literacy levels. • Offline functionality: Many core features (e.g., plant data, tracking, reminders) are available offline, allowing users without constant internet access to benefit from the app. • Theme and Contrast: The app allows users to choose between light mode, dark mode, and system default, improving visual comfort and accessibility for users with

	contrast sensitivity
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	✅ **Positive aspects** • Designed for users with little to no gardening or technical experience • Clear menus and task-focused layout make it easy to access planting and care information • Visually accessible for seniors and users with limited digital skills • Easy to set up plant profiles, reminders, and schedules • It offers light mode, dark mode, and system default for better visual comfort and contrast • Its core features work without internet access, increasing accessibility in all environments ⚠️ **Limitations** • No screen reader support or adjustable font sizes currently available • The app provides gardening information tailored to U.S. climate zones • Users outside the U.S. must manually adjust parameters such as soil type, acidity, frost dates, hardiness (rusticity), and pH levels to reflect local conditions
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	• 4.2 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive feedback** • Very complete, offering detailed information for various vegetables. • Clarity: The interface and instructions are described as clear and easy to follow. • Bugs and crashes are fixed quickly, showing active app maintenance. • Many users find it well-suited for home or small-scale gardening. • Users appreciate save and restore features which help users back up and recover their gardening data. ⚠️ **Weaknesses** • Users request more variety of plants and herbs to be included. • Some users mention the lack of a feature to track plant watering history. • Suggestions include adding more tips and guidance for beginners. • Synchronization across multiple devices is not yet supported.
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	• The inability to adjust font size may pose difficulties for users with low vision or reading challenges. • As the app is based on U.S. climate zones, seniors in other regions may find the information inaccurate unless they manually adjust parameters such as soil type.

	• While the interface is simple, the app lacks built-in tips or tutorials tailored to absolute beginners, which may leave less experienced users unsure about next steps. • Currently available only in English, the app may be inaccessible to non-English-speaking seniors.
Interface	
Image(s)	

3.2 Groww

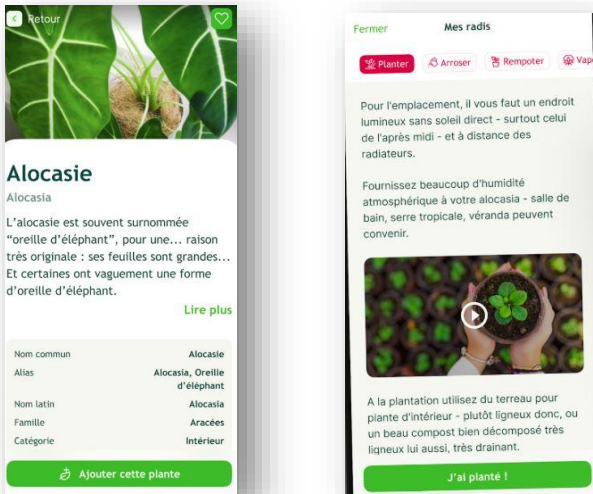The second smart gardening app identified from the consortium is called groww and it helps uses to properly care for their plants. Detailed information about the app is provided in the table below.

Table 2: Smart Gardening App 2

General Information	
App Name	Groww
About this app	This app is designed to help users care for their plants by offering personalized gardening advice, reminders, and expert guidance.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version available • Freemium model with additional features via in-app purchases
Functional Features	
Main Features	• Access to a comprehensive database of over 2,000 plants, including vegetables, flowers, houseplants, and ornamentals. • Real-Time personalized notifications and reminders for tasks like: watering, pruning, mulching, planting • A growing database of over 2,000 plant profiles including care tips for vegetables, houseplants, ornamentals, and more.

	• A dynamic planner with seasonal care tasks tailored to plant type and geographic location. • Illustrated instructions for common tasks such as repotting, sowing, and trimming.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	French
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• Built with simplicity in mind with only three functionalities clearly illustrated by icons. • A user-friendly layout with clearly organized menus, legible typography, and clean visuals designed for easy navigation. • A prominent and easily identifiable symbol leading to the photo-based recognition feature. • A distinct icon provides access to a rich database of over 2,000 plants, presented with high-quality images.
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.4 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Users consistently appreciate the extensive plant database and the depth of information provided for each species, including care guides, planting calendars, and environmental requirements. • The intuitive interface, clear icons, and well-organized layout receive praise from both novice and experienced gardeners, making the app accessible and enjoyable. ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Some users report occasional errors or crashes when using the plant recognition feature. • Sporadic bugs or performance issues can affect user experience on certain devices. • Inconsistent or missing alerts for scheduled gardening tasks have been noted. • Some users experience difficulties with app loading or syncing, particularly when internet access is weak or inconsistent.
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	Difficulties in logging in or maintaining a stable connection to the user account may pose challenges for seniors who are less familiar with troubleshooting app settings or connectivity problems.
Interface	

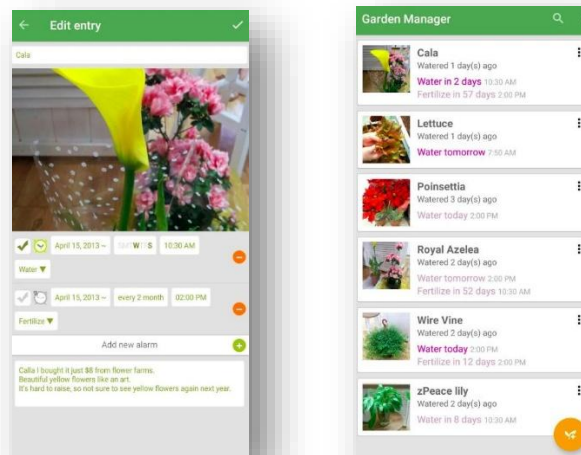|	
Image(s)	

3.3   Garden Manager

The third smart gardening app is called Garden Manager and it helps users to manage their gardening tasks. Detailed info about it, as well as relevant ratings are presented in the table below:

Table 3: Smart Gardening App 3

General Information	
App Name	Garden Manager
About this app	This app is designed to help users manage their gardening tasks with personalised alarms and detailed plant tracking. It allows users to set reminders for watering, fertilizing, pruning, and more, while also offering a photo log to document plant growth over time.
Platform(s)	• [Android](#)
Price/Cost	• Free version available
Functional Features	
Main Features	• Alerts for watering, fertilizing, pesticide spraying, pruning, and more recurring tasks • Notes with time-stamped images, height/width tracking, and growth graph visualization
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English • Italian • French • Portuguese • Spanish

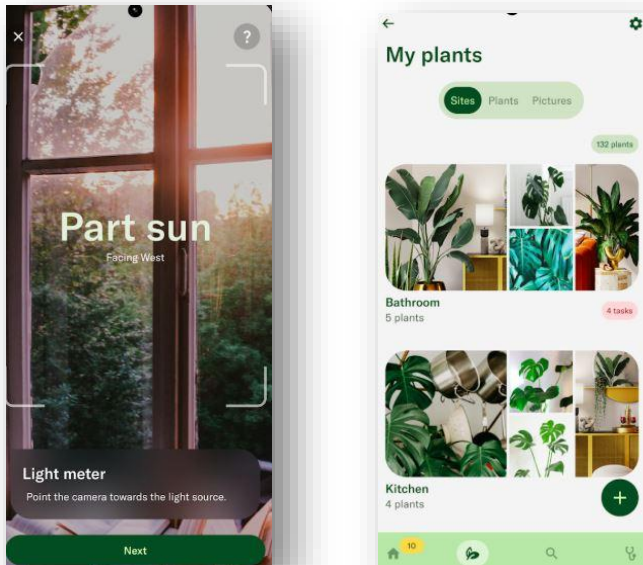|	
	• Dutch
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• Tutorial on how to use the app • Simple plant entry • Quick setup without mandatory account registration
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.4 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Ease of use and flexibility in managing garden tasks • Comprehensive plant tracking features, including notes, health status, and photos • Customizable alarm and watering schedule options • Minimal and non-intrusive advertising experience • Appreciation for plant-focused utility and user-centric design ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Inconsistent or non-functional alarm notifications • Issues with photo logging and in-app camera functionality • Non-working backup and restore feature • Lack of flexibility in updating watering dates manually • Insufficient notification feedback when device is on silent mode
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	Plant log requires photo capture and file access permission, which may be confusing or intrusive for seniors
Interface	
Image(s)	

3.4 Planta

Planta

Planta is the fourth smart gardening app identified, which serves as a plant care assistant. More information about the app and its features is presented in the table below.

Table 4: Smart Gardening App 4

General Information	
App Name	Planta
About this app	The Planta app is a smart plant care assistant designed to help users take care of their houseplants with minimal effort. It's ideal for both beginners and experienced plant owners.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version with basic functionality • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• Personalized care schedules for watering, fertilizing, misting, and repotting based on the specific type of plant and its environment • Users can scan a plant using their phone to identify it from the app's plant database. • Users can submit photos of sick plants to receive a diagnosis and care suggestions • The app sends push notifications to remind users when it's time to care for each plant. • A built-in plant journal allows users to track their plant's growth through notes and photos.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• Clean and intuitive design with visually appealing icons • Simple onboarding and plant registration • Drag-and-drop functionality for organizing plants • Friendly tone and encouraging prompts • Some features may require multiple steps (e.g., setting light conditions), which could be complex for users who are unfamiliar with technology
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	☑ **Positive Feedback** • Great for plant beginners • Timely and helpful reminders • Beautiful interface

	• It improves plant survival rates
	⚠ **Negative Feedback** • Premium subscription is expensive • Notifications can be excessive • Some bugs with plant recognition and syncing • Limited offline usability

Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	The app may be challenging for users who are unfamiliar with smartphones or multi-step applications. Text size may be too small for users with vision impairments, making readability difficult. Additionally, users must register with an email address to access the app, which may be a barrier for those not comfortable with digital account setups.

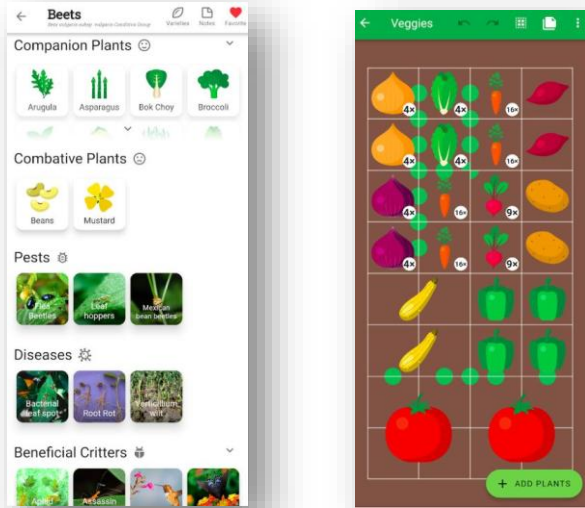| Interface	
Image(s)	

3.5 Planter – Garden Planner

The fifth smart gardening app is the Planter – Garden Planner. More details about its functionalities and features are outlined below.

Table 5: Smart Gardening App 5

General Information	
App Name	Planter - Garden Planner
About this app	Planter is a visual vegetable garden planner that helps both beginners and experienced gardeners design garden layouts, follow planting schedules, and manage companion planting.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android

Price/Cost	• Free version with basic functionality • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• The app provides companion and combative plant information to guide optimal planting layouts. • It includes a planting schedule that calculates sowing, transplanting, and harvest dates based on local frost zone. • The square-foot garden layout grid allows users to visually arrange their garden beds with proper spacing. • Detailed plant profiles cover 50+ (or up to 80+) vegetables and fruits and support adding custom plants. • The app automatically determines frost dates and planting zones based on user location.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• Planter offers an intuitive drag-and-drop interface for visually arranging gardens and managing multiple beds. • Users can begin using the free version without creating an account, though signing up may be required to sync or unlock premium features.
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.5 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Many users find the app's drag-and-drop layout system intuitive and extremely helpful for planning garden beds and rows. • The companion planting guide is frequently praised for helping users make informed planting decisions and avoid incompatible pairings. • Gardeners appreciate the app's ability to adjust planting schedules based on their local frost zone, making it easier to plan seasonally. • The app is often described as ideal for beginners who want guidance in structuring their vegetable gardens. ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Some users report bugs and glitches after updates, including problems saving layouts or app crashes. • A number of reviewers express frustration that key features are locked behind a paid subscription, limiting the usefulness of the free version. • Several users find the plant-adding workflow confusing, especially when trying to customize their garden layouts quickly. • A few users mention that the app could benefit from better in-app guidance or tutorials, particularly for new

	users.
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	The app may present some challenges for seniors, especially those who are not familiar with smartphones or tablets, as the layout and design steps can feel confusing. The text and buttons on the screen might be too small for users with poor eyesight, making it harder to read and navigate. Additionally, the app does not include voice instructions or simplified settings, which would help make it easier and more accessible for older users.
Interface	
Image(s)	

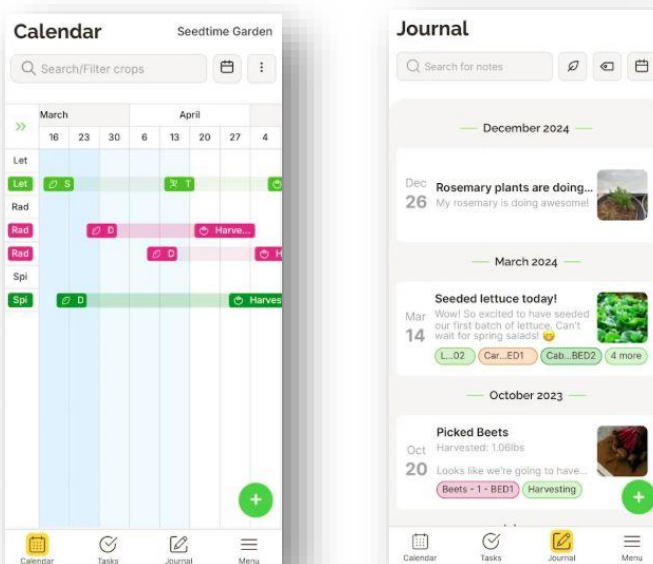## 3.6 Seedtime: Garden Planner App

The sixth smart gardening app identified by the SeniORGarden consortium is the Seedtime: Garden Planner App. Its functionalities and features are described below.

Table 6: Smart Gardening App 6

General Information	
App Name	Seedtime: Garden Planner App
About this app	Seedtime is an all-in-one garden planning and management tool that helps users plan planting schedules, track daily tasks, and journal garden progress with expert guidance.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version with core features • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• The app automatically builds a planting calendar for each signed-up user by estimating sowing, transplanting, and harvest dates based on local frost zone.

	• Users can drag and drop crop plantings into the calendar and easily adjust dates for planting or succession harvesting. • A built-in task manager compiles tasks (like sowing, weeding, harvesting) into daily or weekly checklists synced with the planting calendar. • The journal feature allows users to add notes, photos, tags, and link entries to specific plantings for tracking progress. • The integrated Seedtime Classroom provides short instructional videos on key gardening skills such as soil prep, pest control, planting season extension, and more. • The Ask Sprout Bot lets users ask gardening questions (e.g. pest issues, companion planting), either through AI responses or direct team support.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• The mobile app offers an intuitive interface for checking tasks, journaling, and viewing your planting calendar in the garden. • Users must create an account to save and sync their garden plans between web and mobile platforms. The initial setup may take time, but subsequent updates are simpler.
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.7 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Many users say Seedtime provides a clear and detailed planting calendar that makes planning efficient and enjoyable. • The journal and task features are appreciated for helping users track progress and stay organized in the garden. • Users value the instructional videos and access to the Seedtime community for gardening tips and support. ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Some users report that the initial setup process can feel complex or overwhelming. • Limitations in the free version (such as one garden only or fewer plant varieties) lead some users to upgrade. • The lack of mobile-based garden layout planning frustrates users expecting full app control without needing to use the web.
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	The multi-step setup process and wealth of features may feel intimidating to seniors not confident with digital tools.
Interface	

Image(s)

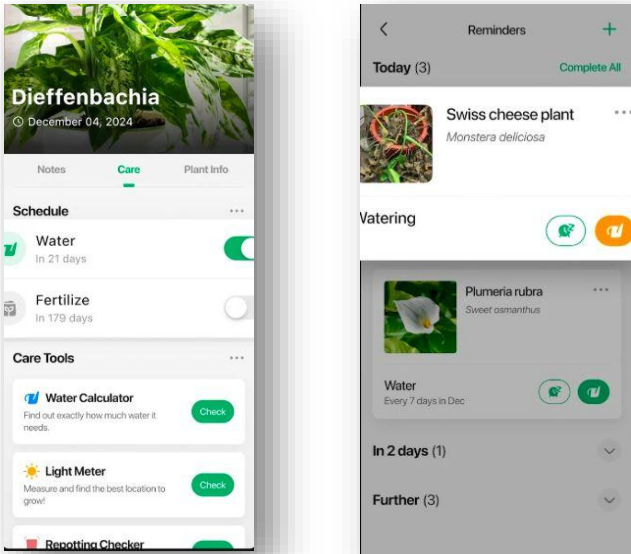## 3.7   PictureThis – Plant Identifier

The seventh smart gardening app identified is called PictureThis – Plant Identifier, an AI-powered plant identification app. Its features and functionalities are described in the table below.

Table 7: Smart Gardening App 7

General Information	
App Name	PictureThis – Plant Identifier
About this app	PictureThis is an AI-powered plant identification app that lets users snap pictures of plants to instantly get detailed information, including the plant's name, care tips, and problem diagnoses.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version with core features • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• The app identifies over 400,000+ plant species with approximately 98% accuracy, simply from a user's photo • It provides plant care tips and reminders, such as watering and lighting instructions to help keep plants healthy • There's an auto-diagnosis feature for plant health issues, giving users treatment suggestions for pests, diseases, or nutrient deficiencies • The app includes warnings about toxic or allergenic plants, with information like pet safety and allergy risk levels

	• A built-in community section lets users share photos or ask gardening questions and connect with other plant lovers • Users may register to save their plant library, track history, and personalize care information to their plants.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• The app features a clean and intuitive interface, making photo-based plant identification easy and fast. • Users can navigate between tabs like Identify, Diagnose, My Plants, and More without difficulty. • To access most features, users must register for an account, especially to start the free trial or sync plant data across devices. The sign-up process is straightforward but required for full functionality.
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.7 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Users frequently mention the fast and accurate plant identification as a standout feature. • People appreciate the comprehensive plant care guides and reminders, which go beyond just naming the plant • The toxin and allergen detection tools are especially valued by pet owners and allergy sufferers for identifying dangerous plants quickly • The community and expert features are helpful for learning and feeling connected to other plant enthusiasts ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Some users have reported errors in plant identification, especially with rare species or inconsistent results from multiple scans • The free version imposes limits, such as a cap on daily scans, which pushes users toward premium plans. • Occasional technical glitches like slow results loading or missing storage of toxic-allergen scan history have been noted
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	Seniors may find small text or dense information overwhelming, and voice navigation or large-print options are not offered. Registration and understanding premium tiers might also feel confusing for those less experienced with apps.
Interface	

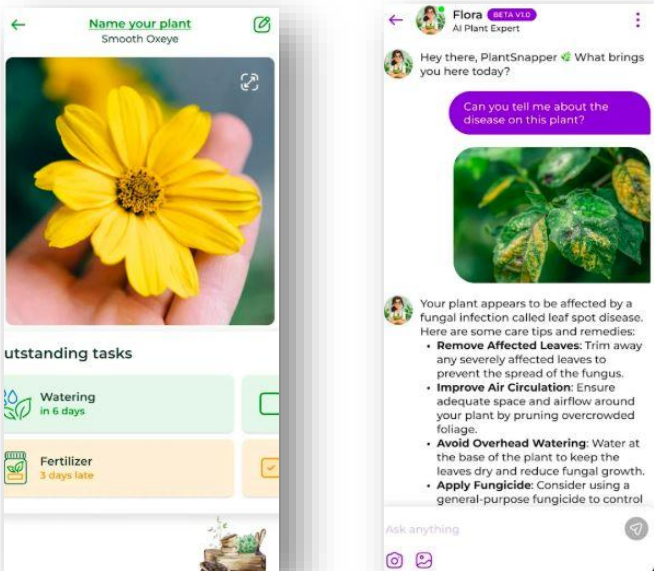|	
Image(s)	

3.8 PlantSnap

PlantSnap is the eight smart gardening app identified, which is also AI-powered identification app. The features and functionalities as well as its detailed information is presented in the table below.

Table 8: Smart Gardening App 8

General Information	
App Name	PlantSnap
About this app	PlantSnap is an AI-powered plant identification app that lets users take a photo of any plant—flowers, trees, succulents, mushrooms—and instantly get the plant's name, care tips, and classification details thanks to its vast database of over 600,000 plant species.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version with core features • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• Users can identify over 600,000 plant species by snapping a clear photo, with identification results delivered within seconds using advanced AI technology • The app provides detailed care instructions for many species, including watering, lighting, and soil guidance • PlantSnap includes a **Plant Doctor** feature that diagnoses plant health issues and suggests treatments for pests or diseases. Identified plants can be saved into personal collections, creating a digital herbarium that syncs across devices and the web. • The **SnapMap** feature allows users to explore identified

	plants shared by the community around the globe, helping users learn through others' discoveries • Multi-image recognition allows users to use photos from different angles (leaf, flower, fruit) to improve identification accuracy.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• PlantSnap supports up to 37 languages
Accessibility Features	• VoiceOver (iOS) and TalkBack (Android) Compatibility • High Contrast and Large Text (iOS/Android)
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• The app has a clear, beginner-friendly interface with photo tips and guided instructions to help users capture good images for identification • Registering an account is required to save plant collections and access full functionality, and the process is straightforward but needed for syncing data and premium features.
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.7 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	✅ **Positive Feedback** • Users appreciate how quickly and accurately the app identifies plants from clear photos • The depth of information and care tips provided after identification are often described as helpful and educational • Community features like SnapMap and the ability to share your plant collection add extra value and engagement ⚠️ **Negative Feedback** • Some users report identifications being wrong or inconsistent, particularly with rarer plants or poor-quality photos • Free users face limitations such as capped daily identifications and ads, making premium features a requirement for heavy use
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	PlantSnap may be challenging for some users due to the complexity of its premium features and the frequent ads in the free version. It often shows multiple plant matches, which can be confusing, and the small text with detailed information may feel overwhelming. The app also requires a strong internet connection, which can limit use in low-connectivity areas.
Interface	

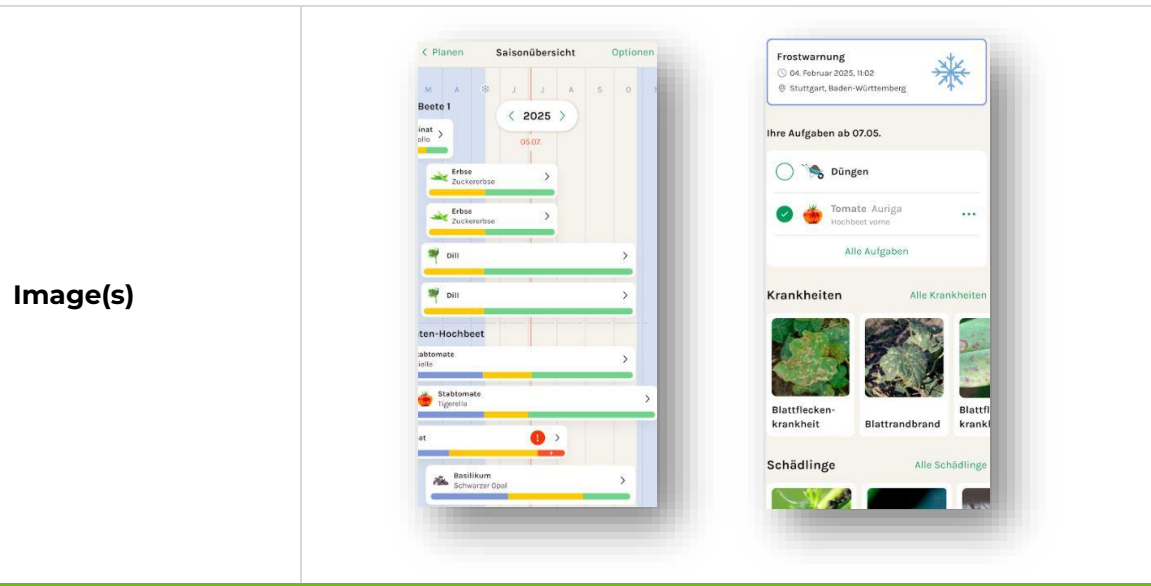| Image(s)	

3.9 Garden Planner by Fryd

The nineth smart gardening app that was identified is the Garden Planner by Fryd. It helps users design vegetable beds and container gardens, along a variety of other features and functionalities. Detailed information is presented in the table below.
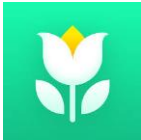
Table 9: Smart Gardening App 9

General Information	
App Name	Garden Planner by Fryd
About this app	Garden Planner by Fryd is a versatile garden planning app that helps users design vegetable beds and container gardens with companion planting, seasonal schedules, and organic growing guidance.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free version with core features • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• Users can plan gardens beds of any size, including raised beds and balcony containers, tailored to their space. • The app includes a companion planting score and automatic layout tools like the "magic wand" to guide plant placements and rotations. • It provides a planting calendar with task lists and seasonal reminders for sowing, transplants, and harvesting. • The built-in plant library contains information on over 3,000 varieties, and users can add or share custom plant

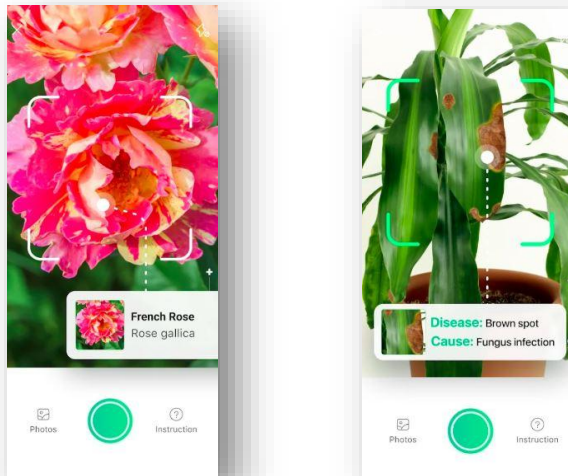|	
	varieties.
	• The community feature connects gardeners worldwide to share plans, advice, and inspiration.
	• Cross-device syncing is supported so plans can be created on desktop, tablet, or mobile and accessed from anywhere.
Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• English
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• Although the app offers a visually appealing and cozy interface, some users find its layout setup and navigation complex or non-intuitive
	• Basic planning tools are available without login, but an account is needed to sync plans and access premium features. Onboarding may feel lengthy for users unfamiliar with garden planning
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.2 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	☑ **Positive Feedback**
	• Users appreciate the aesthetic and intuitive planting tools, especially the companion planting guidance and garden scheduling features.
	• The free version includes significant planning functionality and a helpful plant variety database.
	⚠ **Negative Feedback**
	• Many users find the initial setup and overall navigation complicated and non-intuitive.
	• Users occasionally report bugs, missing plants, or lost data, although responsive customer support is noted in resolving issues.
	• The number of plant varieties may feel limited compared to expectations, and premium plan pricing is considered high by some users.
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	The detailed layout process and companion planting features may feel overwhelming for those unfamiliar with technology or garden design. Also, an account sign-up is required for syncing plans, and premium features may be confusing or costly to manage without prior app experience.
Interface	

Image(s)	

3.10 Plant Parent: Plant Care Guide

The final smart gardening app identified is the Plant Parent: Plant Care Guide which is an AI-powered plant care assistant. Its full functionality is detailed below.

Table 10: Smart Gardening App 10

General Information	
App Name	Plant Parent: Plant Care Guide
About this app	Plant Parent is an AI-powered plant care assistant that helps users identify plants, diagnose plant diseases, and receive personalized reminders for tasks like watering, fertilizing and pruning.
Platform(s)	• iOS • Android
Price/Cost	• Free trial version • Premium subscription for full access
Functional Features	
Main Features	• The app provides smart care reminders to help users remember when to water, fertilize, prune, repot, and more. • A built-in plant identification feature lets users snap a photo to instantly get the plant's name and care recommendations. • The app offers an auto diagnosis tool that analyses photos of unhealthy plants and provides treatment suggestions. • A light meter tool measures environmental light levels to help users find optimal plant placement. • Users can create plant profiles and a calendar view to track growth, care tasks, and seasonal planning. • The app includes an Ask Experts feature for personalized plant-care consultation with professionals

Language and Accessibility	
Languages Available	• The app supports multiple languages
Accessibility Features	No specific accessibility features built into the app
User Experience	
Ease of Use & Interface	• The interface is clean and intuitive, making it easier for users to navigate between identification, diagnosis, and care calendar features
Feedback and Reviews	
Average User Rating	4.6 out of 5
Common Complaints/Praises	☑ **Positive Feedback** • Many users highlight the smart reminders and diagnostic tools as helpful in saving plant health and reducing care mistakes • The plant identification and care plan functions are appreciated for simplifying plant care and education. • Users often mention that the interface is friendly and easy to use, especially for those new to plant care ⚠ **Negative Feedback** • Some users report inaccurate plant diagnoses or misidentifications, particularly for uncommon species or poor-quality images. • Others say the app can be misleading about the free trial, with auto-renewal billing being confusing or hard to cancel • A few reviews mention syncing issues or reminders not working as expected, especially in earlier versions
Suitability for SeniORGarden	
Potential Barriers for Seniors	The reliance of the app on accurate photo input and minimal accessibility support may make it less ideal for users with limited tech experience.
Interface	
Image(s)	

3.11 Smart Gardening Apps Analysis

3.11.1 Accessibility gaps

A central issue across most smart gardening apps is their lack of senior-oriented design. Small text sizes, absence of voice commands, and limited multilingual support can make them less inclusive for older adults. For SeniORGarden, this is critical, since seniors are the primary target group. PlantSnap stands out for offering large-text and high-contrast modes, which directly improve usability for people with visual impairments. However, even in this case, navigation remains complex, so training sessions and facilitator support would be needed to ensure confidence in use.

3.11.2 Cost barriers

Many apps place their most useful features (such as planting calendars, pest diagnostics, or advanced garden planning) behind paywalls. While free versions can be used for basic guidance, they often include advertising or limited functionality, which can be distracting or confusing for seniors.

3.11.3 Ease of use

Apps with straightforward, icon-based interfaces such as Gardroid, Planter, and Planta are far more approachable for seniors, who may not be accustomed to text-heavy or multi-layered digital environments. However, even simple apps often assume a certain level of digital literacy. This means that part of the project's ICT training should include guided demonstrations and step-by-step exercises that will allow seniors to practice using these apps in a safe, supportive environment.

3.11.4 Community-building

A smaller group of apps, particularly Fryd and PlantSnap, incorporate social or collaborative features such as sharing garden layouts, uploading photos, or joining online plant identification communities. These align strongly with SeniORGarden's participatory and intergenerational approach. Seniors can share progress with peers and family, while younger participants can help them upload or interpret content, reinforcing the exchange of skills and knowledge.

3.11.5 Offline usability

Connectivity remains an important barrier for seniors, especially in rural areas or among participants with limited data plans. Apps like Gardroid and Garden Manager that allow offline use are therefore highly valuable, as they make gardening advice available without requiring constant internet access. This also reduces digital stress, as seniors can use the app in their gardens without worrying about Wi-Fi coverage.

No single app is sufficient to address all the project's needs. Instead, a strategic combination offers the best fit:

- Gardroid provides a simple entry point into vegetable gardening, particularly suitable for seniors who are new to digital tools. Its offline capability is a strong advantage.

- Planter complements this by teaching layout design and companion planting, which are central to organic gardening practices and can be used in group settings where seniors and younger participants collaborate.
- PlantSnap enriches the experience by supporting plant identification and biodiversity learning. Its accessibility features and multilingual support make it particularly inclusive and adaptable across different partner countries.
- Garden Manager brings in the practical aspect of scheduling, reminders, and record-keeping, helping seniors stay organised and reducing the risk of tasks being forgotten.
- Seedtime, while more complex, can be used selectively in training sessions, facilitated by youth or trainers, to expose seniors to structured tutorials and encourage intergenerational interaction.

Together, these apps provide a balanced digital toolkit: Gardroid and Planter for practical gardening basics, PlantSnap for inclusivity and biodiversity education, Garden Manager for organisation, and Seedtime for deeper training opportunities. This combination also supports the project's goal of enhancing digital literacy among seniors, as each app introduces a different type of interaction (planning, identifying, scheduling, learning).

4 Conclusion

The analysis of smart gardening applications conducted in T2.2: Desk Research on Smart Gardening Apps demonstrates the significant potential of digital tools to complement organic gardening practices and support the overarching objectives of SeniORGarden. While none of the apps examined is entirely sufficient on its own, collectively they offer a wide spectrum of functionalities that can be adapted to the project's needs, from basic cultivation guidance and scheduling to biodiversity identification and community engagement.

For seniors, accessibility remains a key concern, as most applications lack senior-oriented features such as adjustable text size, voice navigation, or simplified user flows. Nevertheless, options like PlantSnap, with its multilingual support and contrast adjustments, and Gardroid, with its offline usability and beginner-friendly design, highlight pathways for inclusion. At the same time, apps such as Planter and Garden Manager offer practical tools for garden planning and scheduling, while Seedtime introduces more advanced educational and training resources that can be used in guided settings.

By strategically combining selected applications, SeniORGarden can create a digital toolkit that supports both accessible gardening engagement for seniors and intergenerational collaboration through shared use and learning. Importantly, the inclusion of these apps within the training programme under Work Package 3 will not only strengthen gardening knowledge and digital literacy but also promote confidence, independence, and social connection among participants.

In sum, the integration of smart gardening apps represent a valuable step towards achieving SeniORGarden's mission of empowering seniors to remain socially and physically active through sustainable, inclusive, and technology-enhanced gardening practices.

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Enhancing Active Ageing through Organic Gardening

Quality Checklist

D2.2: Smart Gardening Apps Report

Reviewer (Name)	Partner Organisation
Lucia Svata	OTI

CRITERIA	VERIFICATION
Conformity to Standards & Project Templates	
Logos (CyberEqual, EU)	☑
Project title, reference, author, version, revision, data	☑
Mandatory Statements (disclaimer)	☑
Conformance to the Deliverables Template Structure (i.e., Executive Summary, Introduction, etc.)	☑
Language Check (Typing Mistakes, Grammar, etc.)	☑
Coherence with the Project's Objectives	☑
Reliability of Data	
Information and sources well identified	☑
Data and information are free from factual or logic errors	☑
The analysis is reliable (previous studies have been sufficiently reviewed; qualitative information and quantitative data are balanced and appropriate)	☑
Validity of Conclusions	
Conclusions meet evaluation questions and information needs	☑
No conclusions missing according to the evidences presented	☑

Please indicate any deviations from contractual conditions (WP objectives)

Comments/Suggestions for Revision

Implementation of revisions/modifications suggested and explanation for possible rejections (performed by the Responsible of the Deliverable)

Deliverable Accepted

☒ Yes   ☐ No

If NO, please state reasons: