THE FIRST LANGUAGE
(proto-plantlang)
Things that should be incorporated into the language
- Plant sounds (rustling, etc.) ✓
- Plant behavior
- Magic and shadows
- Invasive species (racism?)

1 Premise
Plantlang is a fusional head-initial lanugage

1.2 History of the language
4 phases :
1. regular tree
2. sentient tree (they know about life and death, day and night, basic language, fire and rain)
3. Dryads (they got legs now)
4. plant people (functional as a player character)

2 Phonology
We got: sounds sometimes, and then other times you dont make sounds
- [s] Sssss like wind
- S's's's's like wind but stuttery
- [h] Hhhhhh like wind again

Features:
- Phonemic creaky voice ˷
- Breathy voice ̈
- ~~Tonal or pitch accent~~
- Whistling xʷ
- Aspiration
- No vowels

2.1 Consonants

Consonants	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p pʰ	p̪ p̪ʰ	t̪ t̪ʰ	t tʰ		k kʰ	ʔ
Fricative	ɸ(ː)	f(ː)	θ(ː)	s(ː)	ʃ(ː)	x(ː)	h(ː)
Affricate	pf(ː)	pf(ː)	tθ(ː)	ts(ː)	tʃ(ː)	kx(ː)	

2.2 Phonotactics
syllable structure: PF(P)
Where P is a plosive and F is a fricative

2.3 Stress
Stressed syllables have a whistled nucleus.

Nuclei	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Unstressed	ɸ(ː)	f(ː)	θ(ː)	s(ː)	ʃ(ː)	x(ː)	h(ː)
Stressed	ɸ̩	f̩	θ̩	s̩	ʃ̍	x̩ʷ	h̩ʷ

3 Word Order
- VSO (head-initial)
- head(verb) → torso(subject) → 4 limbs(object)
- How does changing word order change meaning? Can you change only the word order or do you need to change other things as well to make a differently ordered sentence make sense?

3.1 Noun phrase order
No(case)un (determiner) (adjective)

3.2 Verb phrase order
Ve(infix)rb (adverb) (preposition)

3.3 Adposition order
preposition noun-phrase

4 Misc Syntax
4.1 Reduplication: Makes comparative form of adjectives/augmentative
ex. big -> big big
Reduplicated nouns?

4.2 Adjective can be infixed in nouns

4.3 Imperatives
Imperative are formed by placing "need" (kʰɸp̩ʰ) before the main verb.

ex.
Stab (a) tree.

need   stab   you<salient>   tree<parasalient>.
kfpfph khvph 'bhxsh tkhdthvbh
kfpfp̥ʰ kʰɸp̥ʰ   ʔ<p̥ʰx>ʃ   t<kht̪>θɸp̥ʰ

3rd person imperative example:

John must/should stab a tree.
need   stab   john<salient>   tree<parasalient>.
kfpfph khvph *jo*bhx*hn* tkhdthvbh
kfpfp̥ʰ kʰɸp̥ʰ   *jo*<p̥ʰx>*hn*   t<kht̪>θɸp̥ʰ

4.4 Unresolved issues
Do adjectives agree with nouns in plantness?

4.6 Determiners
Plantlang has no indefinite article

5 Verbs
Tense, aspect, and mood are shown with a fusional infix. The infix is placed after the first consonant of a word (before the first fricative).
Legendary past is for legends, myths, and stories. Potential future is for prophisizations and other things that portend. Optative is for wishes only, not commands.

Verbal Infixes			
Tense	**Mood**	**Aspect**	**Plantlang**
portential	indicative	simple	-t̠ʃk-
	optative	simple	-t̠ʃkp̩-
future	indicative	imperfect	
		perfect	-phk-
	optative	imperfect	
		perfect	-p̩ʰs-
present	indicative	imperfect	-∅-
		perfect	-t̠ʃ-
	~~optative~~	imperfect	-tθx-

		perfect	-tθxp̪ʰ-
past	indicative	imperfect	-ʔθp̪ʰ-
		perfect	-ʔθ-
	optative	imperfect	-tʰθ-
		perfect	-tʰθp̪ʰ-
legendary past	indicative	imperfect	
		perfect	-pɸts-
	optative	imperfect	
		perfect	

6 Nouns

6.1 Nouns classes
- Plant
- Non-plant (live-giving/good)
- Non-plant (live-taking/non-good)

Nouns agree with pronouns and determiners as follows:

Noun class	Pronoun
Plant	plant
Non-plant (live-giving/good)	non-plant
Non-plant (live-taking/non-good)	

6.2 Noun cases
There are three cases that are marked by an infix on the noun. The infix is placed after the first consonant of a word (before the first fricative).

Cases			
Case	**Morphology**	**Use**	**Example**
salient	-p̪ʰx-	Subject of verb in transitive verbs	"*We* grow"

		and intransitive verbs that are typically done by plants	"*They* hunt a fox"
parasalient	-kht̪-	Object of verb in transitive verbs. Subject of intransitive verbs that are not typically done by plants.	"*We* dance" "They hunt *a fox*"
benefactive	-t̪θts-	for the benefit of __	"They built a bridge *for the town*"

7 Honorifics
7.1 Hierarchy of reverence
Big Big Tree (the oldest) > Older trees > younger trees > tree people > kind-to-trees people > destructive people

7.2 Titles
- Mr. Tree "I pity the fool..."
- tree-sama
- Lowly non-moving plant
- Venerable treehugger
- Despicable lumberjack
- Tree (derogatory)

8 Pronouns

	Plant		Non-plant	
	English	**Plantlang**	**English**	**Plantlang**
First	Royal we	tɸ	-	-
Second	You	ʔʃ	You	ʔʃp̪ʰ
Third	Them	tsh (not tʃ)	Them	pxt

9 Vocabulary
- Names for different species
- Language color development order:
  - Black/white, (green, brown/yellow, red, blue)

Nouns		
English	**Plantlang**	**Noun**

		class
sun, day, white, bright, sky, heat (Fire is too much sun/day/white/etc)	t͡ʃp̬ʰ	life-giving
dark, black, night, soil (Death is too much dark/black/soil/etc)	tθɸp̬ʰ	life-neutral
branch, twig, leaf (Overgrowth is excessive branch/twig/etc)	t̠hkx	plant
water, river, ocean, hydrated (Drowned is too much water/river/ocean)	ʔft̠θt	life-giving
sapling, life, birth, creation, energy	kʃ	plant
mold, hollow, empty, fungus, soft	stʃ	life-neutral
plant	p̥kθp̬ʰ	plant
tree-person	tθɸp̬ʰ	plant
animal	ʔhp̬ʰ	life-neutral
fruit	t͡ʃhp̬ʰ	
Some type of soil	kxɸp̬ʰ	plant
Big-person, human	ʔʃp̬ʰ	
"Different proportions of fruit juice"		
tree	ʔʃp	plan

Energy+white = sun, specifically

this

Verbs	
English	**Plantlang**
Grow, birth, create	pθp̬ʰ
Chop, stab, snap	kfpfp̬ʰ
Sky-bless (the sun/rain acts in the favor of the trees)	t̠θp̬ʰ

Sky-curse (the sun/rain acts against the trees)	tʰʃp̪ʰ
need	kʰɸp̪ʰ

Adjectives	
English	**Plantlang**
black	pʃp̪ʰ
white	php̪ʰ
tall	t̪ʰθp̪ʰ
big	ʔθt

Pronouns	see §8

Ideas for daughter languages:
- Sport/competition commentary in language
- Story influenced structure
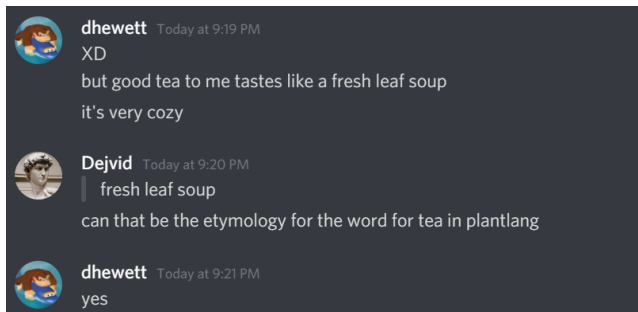
riparian - edge of river

10 Sample Text

Kfpfpʰ kʰɸp̪ʰ *jo*pʰxhn tkht̪θɸp̪ʰ. Kfpfpʰ kʰɸp̪ʰ ʔpʰxʃ t<kht̪>θɸp̪ʰ.
Kfpfph khvph *jo*bhxhn tkhdthvbh. kfpfph khvph 'bhxsh tkhdthvbh
John should stab a tree. Stab a tree.

Romanization	Bilabial	Labio-	Dental	Alveolar	Post-	Velar	Glottal

		dental			alveolar		
Plosive	p	b /p̪/	d /t̪/	t		k	' /ʔ/
Fricative	v /ɸ/	f	th /θ/	s	sh /ʃ/	x	h
Affricate	pf	bf /p̪f/	dth /t̪θ/	ts	tsh / tʃ/	kx	

Aspiration is shown with 'h'

'sh' is ambiguous between /sh/ and /ʃ/

'ph' is ambiguous between /ph/ and /pʰ/

Appendix A: Zompist Gen

P=ptk?&<123456!@#$%

F=ɸfθsʃxh

&|t̪

<|p̪

1|pf

2|p̪f

3|t̪θ

4|ts

5|tʃ

6|kx

!|t̪ʰ

@|tʰ

#|pʰ

$|p̪ʰ

%|kʰ

PF

PFP

Paste this into the zompist gen categories box and click "Parse cat(egorie)s"