**[Ботаник](http://shininghappypeople.net/rwotd/blog4.php/2010/02/17/-371)**

The word ботаник means botanist. It declines perfectly regularly, assuming of course you know the seven-letter spelling rule:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sg | Pl |
| Nom | бот**а**ник | бот**а**ники |
| Acc | бот**а**ника | бот**а**ников |
| Gen |
| Pre | бот**а**нике | бот**а**никах |
| Dat | бот**а**нику | бот**а**никам |
| Ins | бот**а**ником | бот**а**никами |

A ботаник is a person who studies ботаника botany. (Note that the nominative singular ботаника ‘botany’ is written the same way as the accusative/genitive singular of ботаник ‘botanist.’) The definition of ботаник on [ru.wikitionary.org](http://ru.wiktionary.org/wiki/%D0%B1%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA) runs something like this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ботаник — человек, имеющий образование в области ботаники или профессионально занимающийся этой наукой. | A botanist is a person educated in the field of botany or one who is a professional in that science. |

Some botanists have extraordinary lives:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Мой дядя — ботаник, который специализируется по растительности амазонских джунглей. Он ползает по лесам, собирая образцы и стараясь избегать внимания местных людоедов.  | My uncle is a botanist who specializes in the vegetation of the Amazonian jungles. He crawls around the forests gathering samples and trying to avoid the attention of the local cannibals. |

That, however, is not the image associated with the word in Russian pop culture. There a ботаник is someone who is involved in completely uninteresting and testosterone-deficient activities, in other words a geek or a nerd:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| — Лен, мне очень понравился твой Саша. Какой он красавец!— Ты шутишь? Он полнейший ботаник, всё время дома сидит, перелистывая энциклопедию. Как только вернётся Паша, я Сашку наверно брошу. | “Lena, I really liked your boyfriend, Alexandr. He's a real stud!”“Are you kidding? He's a complete geek. He just stays at home all the time, leafing through the encylopedia. As soon as Pavel gets back, I'm probably going to dump Aleksandr.” |