



Recommended Reading



Got Dirt? is funded by the
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Recommended Reading

The following list, organized by reading levels, is just a sample of all of the gardening and food related children’s books.

Baby-Preschool

<i>Grandpa’s Garden Lunch</i> By: Judith Caseley	Sarah helps her grandpa garden and then they enjoy lunch from the garden.
<i>Growing Vegetable Soup</i> By: Lois Ehlert	With brightly colored illustrations, this story takes children through the process of gardening and cooking vegetable soup.
<i>I Eat Vegetables!</i> By: Hannah Tofts	Art and photography portray the insides and outsides of vegetables.
<i>What’s This?</i> By: Caroline Mockford	A young girl finds an unknown seed and cares for it to discover what it is.

Ages 4-8

<i>Carlos and the Cornfield</i> By: Jan Romero Stevens	A story told in Spanish and English teaches Carlos “you reap what you sow.” When he plants too many corn, he tries to fix his mistake, which produces humorous results.
<i>Clara Caterpillar</i> By: Pamela Duncan Edwards	Clara, a cute and carefree common cabbage caterpillar, becomes a courageous and completely contented butterfly.
<i>Eating the Alphabet: Fruits & Vegetables from A to Z</i> By: Lois Ehlert	Identifies fruits and vegetables that start with each letter of the alphabet.
<i>I’m a Seed</i> By: Jean Marzollo	Follow the growth of a a marigold and mystery seed.
<i>Inch by Inch: The Garden Song</i> By: David Mallet	A child plants a garden and patiently waits for it to grow.
<i>Jack’s Garden</i> By: Henry Cole	A fun book about a gardener who tries to find a way to keep bunnies out of his garden.

Ages 4-8 (continued)

<p><i>Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato</i> By: Tomie dePaola</p>	<p>A retelling of an Irish folktale, Jamie O'Rourke, "the laziest man in all of Ireland," happens upon a leprechaun with magic seeds that grow a gigantic potato.</p>
<p><i>Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!</i> By: Candace Fleming</p>	<p>Mr. McGreely plants a garden but discovers rabbits eating his carrots! Will Mr. McGreely keep the rabbits out of the garden or will the rabbits return?</p>
<p><i>Oh Say Can You Seed</i> By: Bonnie Worth</p>	<p>With the assistance of Thing 1 and Thing 2, the Cat in the Hat explores the parts of plants, seeds, basic photosynthesis and seed dispersal.</p>
<p><i>Oliver's Vegetables</i> By: Vivian French</p>	<p>Oliver only likes to eat french fries until he visits his grandparents and helps them garden.</p>
<p><i>One Bean</i> By: Anne Rockwell</p>	<p>Describes the process of growing a bean on wet paper towel to the flower pot and finally eating the bean.</p>
<p><i>Picky Peggy</i> By: Jennifer Dussling</p>	<p>Peggy learns the value of trying new foods and eating a balanced diet.</p>
<p><i>Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden</i> By: George Levenson</p>	<p>Introduction to the life cycle of a pumpkin, accompanied by photos.</p>
<p><i>Scarecrow</i> By: Cynthia Rylan</p>	<p>Beautiful illustrations, peaceful text, and a wonderful story that follows the seasons of the garden through the eyes of a scarecrow.</p>
<p><i>The Carrot Seed</i> By: Ruth Krauss</p>	<p>A little boy plants and cares for a carrot seed.</p>
<p><i>The Enormous Potato</i> By: Aubrey Davis</p>	<p>A farmer grows a large potato and learns the value of teamwork.</p>
<p><i>The Giant Carrot</i> By: Jan Peck</p>	<p>A family works together to grow and care for a carrot.</p>
<p><i>The Tiny Seed</i> By: Eric Carle</p>	<p>Beautiful illustrations show the simple life cycle of a plant</p>
<p><i>Tops and Bottoms</i> By: Janet Stevens</p>	<p>A trickster tale that also shows how different vegetables grow.</p>



Ages 9-12

<i>A Farm Through Time</i> By: Eric Thomas	A chronicling of the history of farms from medieval times to the present
<i>Apple Fractions</i> By: Jerry Pallotta	Learn all about fractions when different varieties of apples are cut in halves, thirds, etc.
<i>Apples (Life Cycles)</i> By: Julie Murray	Follows the life cycle of an apple from seed to harvest
<i>Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow a Rainbow Garden</i> By: Rosalind Creasy	Depicts planting a garden of edible fruits in unusual colors.
<i>The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, wars, gamines, immigrants, and French fries all play a part</i> By: Milton Meltzer	Meltzer chronicles the history of the potato across cultures
<i>What's Going on in the Compost Pile?: A book about systems</i> By: Rachel Chappell	Explains why you should compost, what compost is, and how to make a compost pile



Cultivating Gardens
for
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