

# Farm to School and Garden Education Books

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Pre-School, Elementary and Middle School



A BOOK IS LIKE A GARDEN  
CARRIED IN THE POCKET  
- CHINESE PROVERB -

Compiled by Joy Albrecht and Sandy McKelvey

# General Farm/Garden/Veggies

**\*Also see titles listed under specific fruits and vegetables which can also be considered “General.”**

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**1001 Things to Spot on the Farm** by Gillian Doherty (Educational Development Corporation, 1998) Featuring detailed illustrations of different kinds of farms around the world, this fun book has lots of things to find and count on every page. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**And The Good Brown Earth** by Kathy Henderson (Candlewick Press, 2004) Gram and Joe are great friends, and they love to spend time together taking care of the vegetable patch. There's digging time, planting time, weeding time, watering time, even thinking time. Meanwhile, the seasons change, and Gram does things her way, while Joe does things his way. Come harvest time, they each will find wondrous surprises thanks to the benevolence of the good brown earth. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow A Rainbow Garden** by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994) An introduction to organic gardening which explains how to grow a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables in unexpected colors, outlining simple guidelines for planning, planting, caring for, and troubleshooting a rainbow garden. Also includes some special recipes. (Grades 2-6) **MH**

**Busy in the Garden** by George Shannon (Greenwillow Books, 2006) A collection of short poems and riddles about planting seeds, watching garden vegetables dance, and growing jack-o-lanterns. Includes poems about zucchini, carrots, corn & pumpkin. Selected poems could be used for specific veggie units. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Cool as a Cucumber, Hot as a Pepper: Fruit Vegetables (Plants We Eat)** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1998) Discusses the history and uses of plants that are normally thought of as vegetables but share some of the traits of fruits, such as tomatoes, avocados, squash, and peppers. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-8)

**The Curious Garden** by Peter Brown (Little, Brown, 2009) While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Eddie's Garden and How to Make Things Grow** by Sarah Garland (Frances Lincoln Children's Book, 2009) What makes Eddie's garden grow? Earth, rain, sun and all sorts of creatures, of course! Eddie's garden is magnificent, from his stringy bean house to his tall sunflowers. How Eddie's garden grows and develops is clearly told in this gentle story with lively characters and colourful illustrations. The book includes full information on growing a garden like Eddie's in a home garden or even indoors. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Farm** by Elisha Cooper (Orchard Books, 2010) Describes the activities on a busy family farm from the spring when preparations for planting begin to the autumn when the cats grow winter coats and the cold rains begin to fall. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

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**Farmer George Plants a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2013) This picture book for older readers focuses on George Washington as farmer, inventor, and scientist. Infused with excerpts from George's letters and diaries, the narrative makes a convincing case for Washington's place as the nation's First Farmer. He invented a combination plow-tiller-harrow, tested different fertilizers, and bred donkeys and horses to create strong mules. His goal to make Mount Vernon self-sufficient carried over to his goal to make the new country independent. (Grades 4-6)

**Farming** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 1988) This book goes through each of the four seasons and shows both inside and outside chores on the farm. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Farming and Food (Ancient Egypt)** by Jane Shuter (Heinemann Library, 1999) An introduction to farming in ancient Egypt, including the cycles of the farming year, irrigation and flooding of the Nile, land ownership, and typical foods. (Grades 3-5) **MH**

**Flower Garden** by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2000) A comforting, richly illustrated story about a birthday surprise. An urban African-American girl and her father buy plants, potting soil, and a window box at the supermarket, ride the bus to their apartment, and put together a colorful gift for the child's mother. Rhyming verse carries the brief story, while wonderful, warm, full-color illustrations present scenes from novel angles, and depict a loving family with a sense of intimacy, sincerity, and joy. A reassuring choice for reading aloud. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Food From Farms (World of Farming)** by Nancy Dickmann (Heinemann, 2010) There are many different kinds of farms. Some farms produce only vegetables while others produce just fruit, and still others produce meat or poultry. Find out about the different kinds of foods that are raised on farms around the world in this introduction to the world of farming. (Grades Pre-K-K)

**A Garden For A Groundhog** by Lorna Balian (Star Bright Books, 2004) Mr. O'Leary comes up with a plan to keep a groundhog from eating some of the vegetables that he and Mrs. O'Leary grow on their little farm. (Grades K - 3) **MH**

**Garden Princess** by Kristin Kladstrup (Candlewick, 2015) Princess Adele, 17, has an affinity for flowers and gardens. So when the gardener's son Garth is invited to visit Lady Hortensia's famous, ever-blooming garden, Adele tags along. But the beautiful Hortensia is actually a witch who has been ensnaring her visitors for decades, transforming the girls into flowers and the young men into servants. She has even turned a thief, Edward, into a magpie, enslaved to do her bidding. Courageous Adele must use all her wits to outsmart Hortensia and free her victims. What could have been just another fairy tale hints at a rich backstory and sweeps the reader into a bewitching adventure. (Grades 5-12)

**The Gardening Book** by Jane Bull (DK Children, 2003) The hottest hobby around is the perfect outdoor activity for kids. Learn how to choose plants and give them what they need to grow and how to use your craft skills to make a scarecrow, a funky yet useful flower container, and more. An ideal introduction to the rewarding world of kids' horticulture. (Grades 2-7) **Haldane**

**The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough** by Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault (Kids Can Press, 2010) In rural Honduras, María Luz Duarte and her family are campesinos, farmers who eke out a subsistence from small, depleted land plots. Forced to leave the family to earn additional wages, Papa puts María in

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charge of the family garden. From her new teacher, María learns exciting, sustainable techniques about terracing plots, composting, and growing complementary plants, as well as selling crops directly at the market, rather than dealing with the coyote, a predatory broker who has repossessed many of the Duartes' neighbors' land. Each spread in this illuminating book begins with a title that divides the lengthy text into chapterlike sections that could be easily read aloud in installments. Daigneault's vibrant colored-pencil illustrations incorporate Latin American culture with both the details of daily life and swirls of magical realism; the nefarious coyote, for example, sports an actual coyote's head atop his human body. (Grades 3-7)

**Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987) Describes the process of growing vegetable soup - preparing the tools and digging holes for the seeds, weeding plants, picking vegetables, washing and chopping them, cooking, and finally enjoying the homemade soup while planning to grow more next year. It's a fresh presentation of the gardening cycle with a joyful conclusion, and the added attraction of an easy and tasty recipe for vegetable soup on the flyleaf. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

**Harvest** by Kris Waldherr (Walker & Company, 2001) A young girl and her mother look forward to harvest day when they can gather in all the wonderful vegetables, herbs, and fruit that their garden has produced. All year they have worked hard, and the garden has too, nurturing this bounty of food and flowers. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

**Harvesting Hope** by Kathleen Krull (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2003) Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive. Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that—maybe—he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened. (Grades K-5)

**How Groundhog's Garden Grew** by Lynne Cherry (Blue Sky Press, 2003) Little Groundhog learns how to plant and tend to his own food garden through every season. From seed-gathering to planting, harvesting, and eating home-grown fruits and vegetables, children join Little Groundhog in learning about the gardening process. (Pre-K-3) **MH**

**I Grew Up On A Farm** by Alan K. Lewis (Moo Press, 2005) This book is a reflection on a childhood spent on a farm in the early 1950s, complete with photo album-style black-and-white photographs and colored illustrations. (Pre-K-3) **MH**

**I Heard It From Alice Zucchini: Poems About the Garden** by Juanita Havill (Chronicle Books, 2006) From the still chill of a winter night to the ra-ta-ta, ra-ta-ta, ra-ta-ta-too of a lively vegetable stew, these twenty whimsical poems celebrate the joys of a garden from start to finish. / Join in the Pea Pod Chant, wander through the Rhubarb Forest, dance with the Dainty Doily Dill Weed, gossip with Alice Zucchini, and hold your breath on the pumpkin's enchanted evening. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**In the Garden: Who's Been Here?** by Lindsay Barrett George (Greenwillow Books 2006) Christina and Jeremy have been sent to the garden to gather vegetables for dinner. But they quickly realize that they are not the first visitors to the garden today. (Pre-K-2)

**Jack's Garden** by Henry Cole (Greenwillow Books, 1995) Come to the garden that Jack planted. You will see seeds and seedlings, buds and leaves. You will meet birds and bugs and butterflies. And best of all, you will watch the garden bloom! (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

\***Lettuce Introduce You: Poems About Food** by Laura Purdie Salas (Capstone Press, 2009) Striking photos pair with well-crafted wordplay in these themed introductions to rhyme and rhythm. Poems in various forms celebrate everything from sitting in class to sailing through space, including salad, corn, carrots & Brussels sprouts. (Grades K-2) **MH**

**The Magical Garden of Claude Monet** by Laurence Anholt (Barron's Educational Series, October 1, 2007) Julie lives in Paris, but she longs to walk in a beautiful country garden. When her mother takes her on a visit to rural Giverny, Julie discovers a beautiful garden and befriends the man she believes is the gardener. In fact, he is the garden's owner, the immortal artist Claude Monet. This is a title in Barron's Anholt's Artists Books for Children series, in which author and illustrator Laurence Anholt recalls memorable and sometimes amusing moments when the lives of the artists were touched by children. Anholt's fine illustrations appear on every page and include reproductions of works by the artists. (Grades 1-4)

**Mrs. Spitzer's Garden** by Edith Pattou, illustrated by Tricia Tusa (HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition, March 1, 2007) Mrs. Spitzer is a wise teacher who knows many things. She knows about gardens. She knows about children. She knows how similar they are. And how they will flourish if tended lovingly. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**My Garden** by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books, 2010) The girl in this book grows chocolate rabbits, tomatoes as big as beach balls, flowers that change color, and seashells in her garden. How does your garden grow? (Grades K-2) **MH**

**Oliver's Vegetables** by Vivian French (Orchard Books, 1995) Do you like chips? Oliver does, in fact, he won't eat anything else - until he plays a game with his grandpa. Whatever vegetable Oliver finds in the garden, he must eat. On Monday, he pulls up carrots, on Tuesday, it is spinach. This is an excellent book for parents with slightly fussy children and it introduces the days of the week. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Omnivore's Dilemma, Young Readers Edition: The Secrets Behind What You Eat** by Michael Pollan (Dial, 2015) "What's for dinner?" seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices.

In a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals, as well as a new afterword and backmatter, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* serves up a bold message to the generation that needs it most: It's time to take charge of our national eating habits—and it starts with you. (Grades 6-12)

**Our School Garden** by Rick Swann, illustrated by Christy Hale (Readers to Eaters, March 6, 2012) New city. New school. Michael is feeling all alone—until he discovers the school garden! There's so many ways to learn, and so much work to do. Taste a leaf? Mmm, nice and tangy hot. Dig for bugs? "Roly-poly!" he yells. But the garden is much more than activities outdoors: making school garden stone soup, writing Found Poems and solving garden riddles, getting involved in

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community projects such as Harvest Day, food bank donations, and spring plant sales. Each season creates a new way to learn, explore and make friends. (Grades 2-7)

**Plant Stems & Roots** by David M. Schwartz, photography by Dwight Kuhn (Gareth Stevens Pub., 2000) Highlights stems and roots, the essential plant parts that give us radishes, blackberries, peas, milkweed, corn, strawberries, and trees. (Grades 1-3) **MH**

**Planting a Rainbow** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1988) This bright, informative book chronicles plants of every season. In addition to telling the readers when to plant, it also focuses on when to expect certain flowers and colors, depending on the season. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Quiet in the Garden** by Alike (Greenwillow Books, February 3, 2009) "I love to go out in the garden," says a young boy, who describes what he sees and hears when he sits still in his lush backyard. The quiet garden, it turns out, is teeming with life, and the boy imagines noisy conversations among the small animals he observes. After a robin nibbles berries on a bush, for example, a snail asks, "Why did you do that?" "I was hungry," the robin replies. That question and answer becomes a rhythmic refrain, subtly introducing food-chain concepts in dialogue between pairs of animals. Finally, the boy realizes that he, too, is hungry, and after gathering vegetables and fruit, he shares a picnic with his animal friends. (Grades K-2)

**Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant** by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books, 2011) Know any kids who don't like veggies? Here is a book that's sure to change their hungry minds! With a raucous, rhyming text, *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* celebrates fresh vegetables, nature's bright colors, and the joy of healthy eating. (Grades Pre-K-K) **MH**

**Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together with Children** by Sharon Lovejoy (Workman Pub., 1999) A compact treasury of gardening lore, tips, and ideas for adults to share with children. The author gives guidelines and instructions for a backyard moon garden that attracts night creatures, thematic suggestions for a pizza garden and a pumpkin patch, and includes the smallest of gardens in a discarded glove or boot. The author's list of top 20 plants for kids will get youngsters and their parents raring to dig. (Grades K-5) **MH**

**Rose's Garden** by Peter H. Reynolds ( Candlewick, 2009) After traveling the world in her fantastic teapot, Rose is ready to put down roots. She sets about planting flower seeds in a neglected corner of a bustling city. And then she waits – through rain, and cold, and snow. Rose waits, never doubting that the garden she envisions will one day come to be. A sweet fable dedicated to Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy – celebrating the spirit of community, the beauty of nature, and the power of faith and imagination. With a simple narration and lovely, fanciful illustrations, this luminous picture book resonates with readers of all ages. (K- 3)

**Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard** by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012) Alice's family plants a vegetable garden each spring, and this budding naturalist reports all she sees about how the plants grow, what insects come to eat the plants, and what birds and animals come to eat the insects. It's the food chain, right in her own backyard! (Grades K-3)

**Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Judy Pedersen (HarperTrophy, 2004) A vacant lot, rat-infested and filled with garbage, looked like no place for a garden. Especially to a neighborhood of strangers where no one seems to care. Until one day, a young girl clears a small

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space and digs into the hard-packed soil to plant her precious bean seeds. Suddenly, the soil holds promise: To Curtis, who believes he can win back Lateesha's heart with a harvest of tomatoes; to Virgil's dad, who sees a fortune to be made from growing lettuce; and even to Maricela, sixteen and pregnant, wishing she were dead. Thirteen very different voices and perspectives—old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful—tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood. (Grades 5-12)

**Sticky and Stringy: Stem and Bulb Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1999) Describes historical origins, use, and growing requirements of garlic, onions, shallots, and leeks (members of the allium family) as well as celery, asparagus, and rhubarb. Includes recipes. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-8)

**The Surprise Garden** by Zoe Hall (Blue Sky Press, 1998) "We're planting the seeds for a surprise garden. Can you guess what we will grow?" Trace the progress of three small children (and various and sundry dogs, ladybugs, spiders, worms, and butterflies) as they loosen the soil, poke seeds in one by one, water the garden, and watch the small green shoots grow. Surprise! The gardeners find carrots and radishes, broccoli and cauliflower, peas, beans, squash, and even a sunflower. When it's harvest time, the children have a garden party to eat all their delicious produce. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

**Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2015) Thomas Jefferson was more than a president and patriot. He was also a planter and gardener who loved to watch things grow—everything from plants and crops to even his brand-new nation. As minister to France, Jefferson promoted all things American, sharing corn and pecans with his Parisian neighbors. As secretary of state, he encouraged his fellow farmers to grow olives, rice and maple trees. As president, he doubled the size of the nation with the Louisiana Purchase. Even in his retirement, Jefferson continued to nurture the nation, laying the groundwork for the University of Virginia. (Grades 3-7)

**Tiny Green Thumbs** by C.Z. Guest (Hyperion Book, 2000) Tiny Bun and his grandmother plan, plant, and grow a vegetable garden. Includes step-by-step instructions for planting carrots, beans, cucumbers, corn, and sunflowers. (Grades Pre-K -2) **MH**

**Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens** (Harcourt Brace and Co., 1995) Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots in American slave tales, *Tops & Bottoms* celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Up, Down, and Around** by Katherine Ayres (Candlewick Press, 2007) From seeds dropping into soil to corn bursting from its stalks, from children chasing butterflies to ants burrowing underground, everything in this vibrant picture book pulses with life — in all directions! Sprightly illustrations set the mood for a rhythmic text that follows nature's course to a feast of backyard bounty. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

**The Vegetable Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta (Charlesbridge Pub., 1992) A wonderful blend of facts and humor makes learning about vegetable gardening fun and easy. Learn about fiddleheads, munchkin pumpkins, snow peas, walla wallas, and more! Beautiful color illustrations lead children through a brief introduction to soil preparation and seed planting, as well as through a discovery of both common and exotic vegetables.. (Grades 1-3) **MH**

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**The Victory Garden Vegetable Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta & bob Thomson (Charlesbridge, 1992) Describes a variety of terms, from A to Z, relating to vegetable gardening, beginning with asparagus and ending with zucchetto. From asparagus to zucchetto, a garden alphabet of 26 vegetables, with basic instruction on soil preparation and planting.. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH & Haldane**

**Who Grew My Soup?** by Tom Darbyshire (Publications International, Ltd., 2009) Who Grew My Soup? tells the story of young Phineas Quinn and his questions about the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. Phin declares he won't slurp a single spoonful until he knows: "Who grew these carrots? Who grew these tomatoes? These beans and this barley? This corn? These potatoes? Who sprouted this spinach? Who planted these peas? And who picked this celery? Tell me now, please?" (Grades K-3)

**Whose Garden Is It** by Mary Ann Hoberman (Harcourt, 2000). The gardener says the garden belongs to him. But the woodchuck insists that it's his. And so do the rabbit, the butterfly, the squash bug, and the bumblebee. Even the tiny seeds and whistling weeds think the garden just couldn't grow without them. As they stroll through the exquisite plants and flowers, Mrs. McGee and her child listen and wonder: Whose garden is it? (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities** by Amy Stewart, Briony Morrow-Cribbs (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2009) A tree that sheds poison daggers; a glistening red seed that stops the heart; a shrub that causes paralysis; a vine that strangles; and a leaf that triggered a war. In *Wicked Plants*, Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature's most appalling creations. It's an A to Z of plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, and otherwise offend. You'll learn which plants to avoid (like exploding shrubs), which plants make themselves exceedingly unwelcome (like the vine that ate the South), and which ones have been killing for centuries (like the weed that killed Abraham Lincoln's mother). (Grades 4-8)



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# Bees, Bugs and Butterflies

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**Are You a Bee? (Backyard Books)** by Judy Allen, illustrated by Tudor Humphries (Kingfisher, 2004) Backyard Books: Are You a Bee? shows that—from the perspective of a honeybee—the backyard is a busy place. A young bee faces many challenges as it takes its place in the hive and joins in the work of the bee community. (Grades K-3)

**Are You a Butterfly?** by Judy Allen, illustrated by Tudor Humphries (Kingfisher, 2003) From the Backyard Books series, Are You a Butterfly? begins with the egg, followed by the caterpillar, the chrysalis, and the emergence of the butterfly. The text, informal and engaging, talks the child/animal through its metamorphoses: "Your wings are crumpled. They look terrible. Don't worry. Hang upside down from your chrysalis." (Grades K-3)

**Are you a Ladybug? (Backyard Books)** by Judy Allen, illustrated by Tudor Humphries (Kingfisher, 2003) "Are you a ladybug? If you are, your parents look like this, and they eat aphids." So begins a charming little book from the Backyard Books series that documents the amazing life cycle of the common ladybug. Throughout, Humphries engages the viewer's imagination with clear, close-up illustrations, done in soft watercolors, of beetles from egg to adult. The text invites the listener to be part of the story, growing inside an egg, hatching as a strange larva, resting in the hard, shell-like pupa, and finally emerging complete with wings, spots, and a bright red coat. (Grades K-3)

**Are you an Ant? (Backyard Books)** by Judy Allen, illustrated by Tudor Humphries (Kingfisher, 2004) The Backyard Books series offer a virtual bug's-eye view of the world. Vivid watercolor paintings on two-page spreads depict the subject insect in its backyard habitat; most views are close-ups, with the creature juxtaposed against towering leaves of grass, weeds, flowers, etc. (Several illustrations in Are You an Ant? show the worker in its underground nest.) Are You an Ant? will give children who love to track ants an inside look at the everyday life of this fascinating insect, as they explore the similarities and differences to themselves. (Grades K-3)

**A Butterfly Is Patient** by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long (Chronicle Books, 2011) The creators of the award-winning An Egg Is Quiet and A Seed Is Sleepy have teamed up again to create this gorgeous and informative introduction to the world of butterflies. From iridescent blue swallowtails and brilliant orange monarchs to the world's tiniest butterfly (Western Pygmy Blue) and the largest (Queen Alexandra's Birdwing), an incredible variety of butterflies are celebrated here in all of their beauty and wonder. Perfect for a child's bedroom bookshelf or for a classroom reading circle! (Grades K-5)

**From Caterpillar to Butterfly (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 1)** by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by Bari Weissman (HarperCollins; English Language edition, 1996) A caterpillar comes to school in a jar and the class watches the caterpillar each day as it grows and changes. Soon, it disappears into a hard shell called a chrysalis. Where did it go? This is a perfect beginner's guide to the mystery of metamorphosis. Named as a NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, this book explains the life cycle from caterpillar

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to butterfly with easy-to-follow prose from Deborah Heiligman and warm, colorful illustrations from Bari Weissman. (Pre-K-3)

**What If There Were No Bees?: A Book About the Grassland Ecosystem** by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Picture Window Books, 2010) Grassland ecosystems can be found on nearly every continent. Countless animals and plants live in them. So what difference could the loss of one animal species make? Follow the chain reaction, and discover how important honey bees are. Radiant illustrations are paired with simple, perceptive sentences to underscore the impact of the loss of keystone species. (Grades 2-4)

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# Composting/Dirt/Worms/Bugs

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**Compost Critters** by Bianca Lavies (Dutton Children's Books, 1993) Nonfiction. Throughout the year, the photographer observes and chronicles her own compost pile and in so doing reveals the essentials of the composting process with a special emphasis on the activity of the "tiny critters" that turn garbage and weeds into soil. (Grades 3-6) **MH**

**Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth** by Mary McKenna Siddals (Tricycle Press, 2010) From eggshells to wiggly worms, this delightful recipe in bouncy verse features items—some familiar and some not so—that are fit for the home compost bin and will nourish Mother Earth. Vibrant collage illustrations use recycled and found materials to further a timely message. And to keep young environmental chefs fully informed about composting do's and don'ts, there's a note in the back about what's not fit for the bin. (Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Composting: Nature's Recyclers** by Robin Koontz (Picture Window Books, 2007) Dead leaves, food scraps, and grass clippings for lunch? Small animals, fungi, and bacteria called decomposers turn trash into a tasty compost treat. Learn more about compost and how you can use it in your garden or yard. (Grades K-4) **MH**

**Diary of a Worm** by Doreen Cronin (Joanna Cotler Books, 2003) This fictional, first-person story is an enjoyable account of how a worm can be the essential building block for good compost, and how that helps the gardener farmer. (Pre-K-3) **MH**

**A Handful of Dirt** by Raymond Bial (Walker Childrens, 2000) Soil may not be alive, but amazingly, multitudes of microscopic creatures live there, battling it out in an eat-or-be-eaten world. These tiny creatures, invisible to our eyes, provide food for the insects that in turn feed the reptiles and mammals that live in and above the soil. You'll never look at the ground you walk on in the same way after this eye-opening, down-and-dirty tour of one of the earth's most precious resources. (Grades 3-5) **MH**

**Jump into Science: Dirt** by Steve Tomecek, illustrated by Nancy Woodman (National Geographic Children's Books, 2007) What is soil? Who lives in dirt? How does earth help things grow? The answers are within this fun- and fact-filled picture book. Just follow the gardening star-nosed mole in the colorful outfits...and dig in! (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Pillbug Project: A Guide to Investigation** by Robin Burnett (National Science Teachers Association, 1992) Help children see for themselves what science is all about with the perfect classroom critter, the docile pillbug. Organized around 10 days of activities, this innovative book helps students explore organisms life cycles and environments, understand scientific inquiry, and have fun. You'll like the practical lesson plans, assessments, and reproducible materials: kids will love the whimsical illustrations and the adventures of Patricia Pillbug. This book provides an entertaining way to teach through stories and pictures. (All ages)

**Roly-Poly Pillbugs (No Backbone! the World of Invertebrates)** by Molly Smith and Patricia S Sadeghian, consultant editor (Bearport Publishing, 2009) Grade-appropriate text for

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emergent readers, large, full-color photos, fact boxes, and summary of animal classification. (Grades 1-3)

**Stories from Bug Garden** by Lisa Moser, illustrated by Gwen Millward (Candlewick, 2016) What may appear to be an abandoned garden is actually home to an unusual array of insects. Meet a ladybug who prefers making mud angels to acting like a lady, a roly-poly bug who loves to roll ("wa-hoo!"), a cricket who dreams of grand adventures, and a whole neighborhood of bugs gazing up at a fireworks show of flowers bursting into bloom. Come peer between blades of grass at the secret lives of a garden's tiniest inhabitants, revealed in lyrical vignettes and charming illustrations. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Wiggle and Waggle** by Caroline Arnold, illustrated by Mary Peterson (Charlesbridge, 2009) "We wiggle and waggle, squiggle and squirm, Digging in the dirt is the life of a worm. We dig and we sing all day long, Our wiggly, waggly, gardening song." Follow Wiggle and Waggle, two wormy best friends, through five wormy chapters as they dig in the dirt, work hard, and have fun swimming and singing. Beginning readers will dig the simple science facts included at the end of this charming book. (Grades 1-3)

**Wiggling Worms at Work (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)** by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (HarperCollins, 2003) Pfeffer discusses the worm's habits, anatomy, locomotion, food, and life cycles, as well as explaining the importance of castings and tunneling in maintaining soil richness, moisture, and aeration. The final two pages encourage children to explore earthworms on their own by closely observing a worm and a tunnel entrance and by planting seeds in ordinary soil and in soil enriched with worm castings. Though children may need to read or hear the text more than once to absorb all the information presented, the book offers a solid, interesting introduction to the subject. Jenkins' distinctive cut-paper collages illustrate the text with clarity and style. A good title for backyard scientists and a fine addition to primary-grade units on the subject. (Grades K-4)

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# Farmers' Markets

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**Farmer's Market** by Carmen Parks (Sandpiper, 2003) Colorful vegetables, delicious fruits, and lots of friends. . . . The farmers market is always fun! Includes a note from the translators. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Farmers' Market Day** by Shanda Trent, illustrated by Jane Dippold (Tiger Tales, 2013) It's Farmers' Market Day! Follow an enthusiastic (and slightly clumsy) little girl as she searches for the perfect treat. She'll discover forests of broccoli trees and rainbows of flowers, taste freshly baked breads and pies, cuddle a kitten, and make a bit of a mess! But will she find her prize? Bursting with energy and humor, Farmers' Market Day captures a colorful feast for the senses! (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Farmer's Market: Families Working Together** by Marcie Rendon and Cheryl Walsh Bellville (Carolrhoda Books, 2001) Handsome color photos and well-written text combine in this introduction to farmers' markets, as seen through the eyes of two successful truck-farming families. A brief overview of a Minnesota farmer's market leads to introductions of two local families: the Thaos, of Hmong descent, and the Kornders, of Polish-German ancestry. Emphasizing the family cooperation required to keep a farm going, and with a special focus on the children's participation, the book also concentrates on moments in the growing season, from the planting of greenhouse seedlings to fall harvests, noting farming techniques and equipment. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

**Market!** by Ted Lewin (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1996) Lewin takes readers on a whirlwind trip around the globe to marvel at the range of goods available for sale in the world's markets. Woolen sweaters and ponchos in Ecuador; wood carvings, flutes, garlic and ginger in Nepal; Irish horses; Ugandan cows, bananas, and limes; fish in New York City; and dates, pottery, and donkeys in Morocco are just a few of the products depicted in the luminous watercolor paintings. (Grades K-4) **MH**

**Market Day** by Carol Foskett Cordsen (Dutton Children's Books, 2008) The Benson family is so busy preparing for their day at a farmers' market that they not only forget to feed the cow, they leave the farmyard gate open and the hungry cow follows them, making a mess of the market. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Market Day: A Story Told with Folk Art** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace, 2000) Everyone's going to the town square. But this is no ordinary market—it's a feast of folk art from around the world. Whether you're looking for fruits, vegetables, or just an afternoon of fun, this is a shopping trip you don't want to miss! (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**To Market, To Market** by Nikki McClure (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2011) Alternating between story and fact, this lovingly crafted picture book follows a mother and son to the weekly market. As they check off items on their shopping list, the reader learns how each particular food was grown or produced, from its earliest stages to how it ended up at the market. A timely book that shines awareness on the skill that goes into making good food. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

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**We're Going to the Farmers' Market** by Stefan Page (Chronicle Books, 2014) In this story, readers get to visit local farmers, fill baskets with fresh fruits and vegetables, and then head home to cook a feast, all with goodies from the farmers' market! Featuring Stefan Page's graphic art, this delightful board book is filled with bold splashes of color and unique patterns. (Grades Pre-K-K)

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# Healthy Eating/Cooking

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**Eat Healthy, Feel Great: A Kid's Guide to Nutrition** by William Sears, M.D. and Martha Sears, R.N. (Little, Brown, 2002) A handbook that gives kids the tools to make their own wise food choices. Includes quick and easy recipes. The text is simple and clear, and the message is presented in a fun way. This book would be a big help to any parents interested in changing their families' eating habits for the better. There are parts in the book that are just for parents: they explain nutrition, as well as make suggestions on how to incorporate more "green light" foods in the family's meals. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Eat Lots of Colors: A Colorful Look at Healthy Nutrition for Children** by Helen Marsteller, illustrated by Valerie Bouthyette (CreateSpace, 2010) "Eat Lots of Colors" is a light-hearted first look at the nutritional benefits of eating colorful foods (derived from naturally occurring phytonutrients in a rainbow of colors which they contain). Simply written and charmingly illustrated, it motivates young children to make healthy food choices. They learn that eating whole and "real" foods actually helps them feel good about themselves, their bodies and their capabilities. If you dream of your children saying, "Can I have carrots instead of potato chips?", pick up a copy of "Eat Lots of Colors." The book includes a chart that makes it fun for them to follow their weekly progress as they discover a world of new and healthy foods. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Eating the Alphabet** by Lois Ehlert (HMH Books for Young Readers, 1996) While teaching upper- and lowercase letters to preschoolers, Ehlert introduces fruits and vegetables from around the world. A glossary at the end provides interesting facts about each food. (Pre-K-K)

**The Food Parade: Healthy Eating with the Nutritious Food Groups** by Elicia Castaldi (Christy Ottaviano Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2013) It's time to celebrate with the five basic food groups. The mayor of Food Town introduces each food group as they march in the town parade, from the vegetables, fruits, and legumes, to the grains and fats. Kids learn about the importance of all the food groups and how our bodies benefit from each. There is also helpful information on portion size and exercise along with both illustrations of the Food Pyramid and the newly introduced food plate". (Grades PreK-2) **MH**

**The Fruits We Eat** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, reprint edition, 2016) Berries, apples, melons and grapes; oranges, grapefruits, bananas—yum! This scrumptious picture book, a companion to *The Vegetables We Eat*, offers youngsters an inviting, information-packed cornucopia of favorite fruits. Gail Gibbons combines a clear, simple text with her signature illustrations to present fruit facts galore: the parts of fruits, where and how they grow, harvesting, processing, where to buy them, and how to enjoy them as part of a healthy diet. Once again, Gibbons proves "a master at creating factual books through which young readers can explore details of nature at an accessible and engaging depth." (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Good Enough To Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition** by Lizzy Rockwell (HarperCollins Publishers, 1999) This picture book about healthy eating begins at the beginning: food is necessary for one's well-being and it tastes good, too. Six categories of

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nutrients are introduced: carbohydrates, protein, fat, water, vitamins, and minerals. Digestion is described, as is the Food Guide Pyramid. Five recipes are given at the end. (Grades K-4) **MH**

**Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987) Describes the process of growing vegetable soup - preparing the tools and digging holes for the seeds, weeding plants, picking vegetables, washing and chopping them, cooking, and finally enjoying the homemade soup while planning to grow more next year. It's a fresh presentation of the gardening cycle with a joyful conclusion, and the added attraction of an easy and tasty recipe for vegetable soup on the flyleaf. (Grades PK-1) **MH**

**I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato** by Lauren Child (Candlewick, 2003) Lola is a fussy eater. A very fussy eater. She won't eat her carrots (until her brother Charlie reveals that they're orange twiglets from Jupiter). She won't eat her mashed potatoes (until Charlie explains that they're cloud fluff from the pointiest peak of Mount Fuji). There are many things Lola won't eat, including - and especially - tomatoes. Or will she? Two endearing siblings star in a witty story about the triumph of imagination over proclivity. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Monster Health Book: A Guide to Eating Healthy, Being Active & Feeling Great for Monsters & Kids!** by Edward Miller (Holiday House, 2006) Beginning with concise discussions of each of the food groups, along with the newly redesigned food pyramid, Ed Miller looks at all aspects of health and nutrition in this accessible and informative book. Fun facts about different foods are included throughout to keep the reading upbeat and clear distinctions are made between healthy and not-so-healthy meal choices. (Grades 2-4) **MH**

**Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant** by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books, 2011) Know any kids who don't like veggies? Here is a book that's sure to change their hungry minds! With a raucous, rhyming text, *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* celebrates fresh vegetables, nature's bright colors, and the joy of healthy eating. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**The Ugly Vegetables** By Grace Lin (Charlesbridge, 2001) A Chinese-American girl and her mother grow a vegetable garden in a neighborhood where everyone else grows flowers. The girl thinks their plants are ugly compared to flowers, but soon learns that vegetables can make a very delicious soup one that the whole neighborhood wants to try. Soon everyone is growing Chinese vegetables as well as flowers. A recipe for "Ugly Vegetable Soup" is included. Lin's brightly colored gouache illustrations perfectly match her story, creating a patchwork-quilt effect as the neighbors' backyards all converge. Families of all kinds engage in all sorts of activities while children play happily together. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Vegetables We Eat** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 2008) Nonfiction pro Gail Gibbons responds to the need for books on good nutrition with this accessible exploration of vegetables. Glossy red peppers; lush, leafy greens; plump, orange pumpkins; and delectable little peas: vegetables come in many shapes, colors, and forms. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**\*Who Grew My Soup?** by Tom Darbyshire (Publications International, Ltd., 2009) *Who Grew My Soup?* tells the story of young Phineas Quinn and his questions about the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. Phin declares he won't slurp a single spoonful until he knows: "Who grew these carrots? Who grew these tomatoes? These beans and this barley? This corn? These potatoes? Who sprouted this spinach? Who planted these peas? And who picked this celery? Tell me now, please?" (Ages 5-8)

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# History

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**Farmer George Plants a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2013) This picture book for older readers focuses on George Washington as farmer, inventor, and scientist. Infused with excerpts from George's letters and diaries, the narrative makes a convincing case for Washington's place as the nation's First Farmer. He invented a combination plow-tiller-harrow, tested different fertilizers, and bred donkeys and horses to create strong mules. His goal to make Mount Vernon self-sufficient carried over to his goal to make the new country independent. (Grades 4-6)

**First Garden: The Whitehouse Garden and How it Grew** by Robbin Gourley (Clarion Books, 2011) The White House kitchen garden, part of Michelle Obama's campaign to encourage healthful eating, was established in 2009. This book tells the story of Mrs. Obama's garden, as well as the story of the White House grounds, the other gardens (including Eleanor Roosevelt's Victory Garden in World War II) that came before, the White House children who have played there, and the teamwork, involving local children as well as the Obama family and White House staff, that led to the garden now flourishing on the South Lawn. This is a lighthearted, entertaining, and lavishly illustrated introduction to an inspiring and much-publicized project. Includes recipes. (Grades 1-4)

**First Peas to the Table: How Thomas Jefferson Inspired a School Garden** by Susan Grigsby, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell (Albert Whitman & Company, 2012) Maya loves contests, so she is excited when her teacher announces they will plant a school garden like Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello — and they'll have a "First Peas to the Table" contest, just like Jefferson and his neighbors had each spring. Maya plants her pea seeds with a secret head start—found in Jefferson's Garden Book and keeps careful notes in her garden journal. But her friend Shakayla has plans of her own for the contest... Susan Grigsby's light-hearted classroom story also presents scientific and historical information. Nicole Tadgell's watercolors add both appeal and botanical accuracy. (Grades 1-4)

**Harvesting Hope** by Kathleen Krull (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2003) Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive. Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that—maybe—he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened. (Grades K-5)

**Miss Ladybird's Wildflowers: How a First Lady Changed America** by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by Joy Fisher Hein (HarperCollins, 2005) Bluebonnets and lady's slippers, larkspurs and blazing stars, black-eyed Susans and Granny's nightcaps. From a lonely childhood in the Piney Woods of East Texas to an exciting life in the White House, Lady Bird Johnson loved these wildflowers with all her heart. They were her companions in her youth, greeting her everywhere as she explored wild forests, bayous, and hills. Later, as First Lady, she sought to

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bring the beauty of wildflowers to America's cities and highways. She wanted to make sure every child could enjoy the splendor of wildflowers. In this warm, engaging look at the life of a great First Lady, Kathi Appelt tells the story behind Lady Bird Johnson's environmental vision. Joy Fisher Hein's colorful wildflowers burst from every page, inviting us to share in Lady Bird's love for natural beauty. (Grades 2-5)

**In the Garden with Dr. Carver** by Susan Grigsby, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell (Albert Whitman & Company, 2010) Sally is a young girl living in rural Alabama in the early 1900s, a time when people were struggling to grow food in soil that had been depleted by years of cotton production. One day, Dr. George Washington Carver shows up to help the grownups with their farms and the children with their school garden. He teaches them how to restore the soil and respect the balance of nature. He even prepares a delicious lunch made of plants, including "chicken" made from peanuts. And Sally never forgets the lessons this wise man leaves in her heart and mind. Susan Grigsby's warm story shines new light on an African American scientist who was ahead of his time. (Grades 2-4)

**Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2015) Thomas Jefferson was more than a president and patriot. He was also a planter and gardener who loved to watch things grow—everything from plants and crops to even his brand-new nation. As minister to France, Jefferson promoted all things American, sharing corn and pecans with his Parisian neighbors. As secretary of state, he encouraged his fellow farmers to grow olives, rice and maple trees. As president, he doubled the size of the nation with the Louisiana Purchase. Even in his retirement, Jefferson continued to nurture the nation, laying the groundwork for the University of Virginia. (Grades 3-7)

**Trail of Tears (Step-Into-Reading, Step 5)** by Joseph Bruchac (Random House Books for Young Readers, 1999) In 1838, settlers moving west forced the great Cherokee Nation, and their chief John Ross, to leave their home land and travel 1,200 miles to Oklahoma. An epic story of friendship, war, hope, and betrayal. (Grades 2-4)

**A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver** by Alike (Aladdin; reprint edition, 1988) From humble beginnings, George Washington Carver became one of the greatest scientists in the United States. His dedication to helping his people led him to find over three hundred uses for the peanut and over one hundred uses for the sweet potato. A simple biography of the man, born a slave, who became a scientist and devoted his entire life to helping the South improve its agriculture. (Grades Pre-K-3)

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# Middle School Books

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\* **Ancient Agriculture: From Foraging to Farming (Ancient Technology)** by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods (Runestone Press, 2000) Provides a fascinating look at a particular area of technology as it developed in ancient times, from the first humans to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in A.D. 476. Includes a world map and timeline to show the location and timespan of each culture. (Grades 5-8) **MH**

**The Biography of Potatoes (How Did That Get Here?)** by Ellen Rodger (Crabtree Pub. Co., 2007) Spanish conquistadors brought the potato from South America to Europe in the 1500s. Since then, the potato has helped keep peasants from starving, fed armies, and is today the world's most popular vegetable. The book underlines the importance of this source of nutrition. (Grades 3-8) **MH**

**The Biography of Tomatoes (How Did That Get Here?)** by Adrianna Morganeli (Crabtree Pub. Co., 2007) Fruit or vegetable? Poisonous or 'love apple'? A staple of South America, the tomato made its way to Europe through conquest and trade where it was considered poisonous for hundreds of years. Eventually disproved, tomatoes became one of the world's most popular vegetables. Interesting facts include the tomato's connection to werewolves and why today's commercial farm-grown tomato is seven times less nutritious than 50 years ago. (Grades 3-8)

**Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow A Rainbow Garden** by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994) An introduction to organic gardening which explains how to grow a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables in unexpected colors, outlining simple guidelines for planning, planting, caring for, and troubleshooting a rainbow garden. Also includes some special recipes. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

\* **Buried Treasure: Roots and Tubers** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publishing Company, 1998) After an introduction giving general plant information, there are chapters on potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, and radishes. The authors describe the origin and history of each vegetable; growing and production techniques; and the way the food affects the lives of the people who raise, eat, and use it around the world. Each chapter also contains a simple recipe. (Grades 4-7)

**Cool as a Cucumber, Hot as a Pepper: Fruit Vegetables (Plants We Eat)** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1998) Discusses the history and uses of plants that are normally thought of as vegetables but share some of the traits of fruits, such as tomatoes, avocados, squash, and peppers. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-8)

**Cool Leaf Lettuce From Garden to Table: How to Plant, Grow and Prepare Lettuce** by Katherine Hengel (ABDO Pub., 2012) With this title kids not only learn how to grow their own leaf lettuce in containers, but how to prepare it to eat too! Step-by-step planting, care and harvesting tips give the beginning gardener a good basic understanding of the growing process.

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Delicious recipes from lettuce sushi rolls to a berry vinaigrette salad, with step-by-step photos bring their homegrown vegetable to the table to share with others! (Grades 3-6) **MH**

**The Corn Raid: A Story of the Jamestown Settlement** by James Lincoln Collier (NTC Publishing, 2000) Life is hard for 12-year-old Richard Ayre, a London orphan who had been scooped off the streets as a child and sent to Jamestown Colony. But a chance encounter with an Indian boy his own age gives him a friend, the first real friend he has had in years-until his master's plan to raid an Indian village for corn turns Richard's world upside down. (Grades 5-7)

**Farmer George Plants a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2013) This picture book for older readers focuses on George Washington as farmer, inventor, and scientist. Infused with excerpts from George's letters and diaries, the narrative makes a convincing case for Washington's place as the nation's First Farmer. He invented a combination plow-tiller-harrow, tested different fertilizers, and bred donkeys and horses to create strong mules. His goal to make Mount Vernon self-sufficient carried over to his goal to make the new country independent. (Grades 4-6)

**Farmer's Market: Families Working Together** by Marcie Rendon and Cheryl Walsh Bellville (Carolrhoda Books, 2001) Handsome color photos and well-written text combine in this introduction to farmers' markets, as seen through the eyes of two successful truck-farming families. A brief overview of a Minnesota farmer's market leads to introductions of two local families: the Thaos, of Hmong descent, and the Kornders, of Polish-German ancestry. Emphasizing the family cooperation required to keep a farm going, and with a special focus on the children's participation, the book also concentrates on moments in the growing season, from the planting of greenhouse seedlings to fall harvests, noting farming techniques and equipment. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

**Garden Princess** by Kristin Kladstrup (Candlewick; Reprint edition, March 10, 2015) Princess Adele, 17, has an affinity for flowers and gardens. So when the gardener's son Garth is invited to visit Lady Hortensia's famous, ever-blooming garden, Adele tags along. But the beautiful Hortensia is actually a witch who has been ensnaring her visitors for decades, transforming the girls into flowers and the young men into servants. She has even turned a thief, Edward, into a magpie, enslaved to do her bidding. Courageous Adele must use all her wits to outsmart Hortensia and free her victims. What could have been just another fairy tale hints at a rich backstory and sweeps the reader into a bewitching adventure. (Grades 5-8)

**The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough** by Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault (Kids Can Press, 2010) In rural Honduras, María Luz Duarte and her family are campesinos, farmers who eke out a subsistence from small, depleted land plots. Forced to leave the family to earn additional wages, Papa puts María in charge of the family garden. From her new teacher, María learns exciting, sustainable techniques about terracing plots, composting, and growing complementary plants, as well as selling crops directly at the market, rather than dealing with the coyote, a predatory broker who has repossessed many of the Duartes' neighbors' land. Each spread in this illuminating book begins with a title that divides the lengthy text into chapterlike sections that could be easily read aloud in installments. Daigneault's vibrant colored-pencil illustrations incorporate Latin American culture with both the details of daily life and swirls of magical realism; the nefarious coyote, for example, sports an actual coyote's head atop his human body. (Grades 3-7)

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\***Green Power: Leaf and Flower Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 2001) Describes the history, growing requirements, uses, and food value of various leafy green vegetables and vegetable flowers, including cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Includes recipes. (Grades 5 -7) **MH**

**The Omnivore's Dilemma, Young Readers Edition: The Secrets Behind What You Eat** by Michael Pollan (Dial, 2015) "What's for dinner?" seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices.

In a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals, as well as a new afterword and backmatter, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* serves up a bold message to the generation that needs it most: It's time to take charge of our national eating habits—and it starts with you. (Grades 6-12)

**Our School Garden** by Rick Swann, illustrated by Christy Hale (Readers to Eaters, 2012) New city. New school. Michael is feeling all alone—until he discovers the school garden! There's so many ways to learn, and so much work to do. Taste a leaf? Mmm, nice and tangy hot. Dig for bugs? "Roly-poly!" he yells. But the garden is much more than activities outdoors: making school garden stone soup, writing Found Poems and solving garden riddles, getting involved in community projects such as Harvest Day, food bank donations, and spring plant sales. Each season creates a new way to learn, explore and make friends. (Grades 2-7)

**Pickled: Vegetables, Fruits, Roots, More - Preserving a World of Tastes and Traditions** by Lucy Norris (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 2003) Every cuisine has its pickle, and in "Pickled" Norris takes readers through cucumbers and beyond, presenting a varied collection of more than 80 recipes, each one passed down in families through the generations. Sprinkled throughout with family and historical photos, there's a story behind every pickle. (Grades 5-12) **MH**

**The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth** by Anita Silvey (Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2012) Driven by an all-consuming passion, the plant hunters traveled around the world, facing challenges at every turn: tropical illnesses, extreme terrain, and dangerous animals. They battled piranhas, tigers, and vampire bats. Even the plants themselves could be lethal! But these intrepid eighteenth- and nineteenth-century explorers were determined to find and collect new and unusual specimens, no matter what the cost. Then they tried to transport the plants—and themselves—home alive. Creating an important legacy in science, medicine, and agriculture, the plant hunters still inspire the scientific and environmental work of contemporary plant enthusiasts. (Grades 3-7)

**The Potato: How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World** by Larry Zuckerman (North Point Press; 1st Edition, 1999) *The Potato* tells the story of how a humble vegetable, once regarded as trash food, had as revolutionary an impact on Western history as the railroad or the automobile. Using Ireland, England, France, and the United States as examples, Larry Zuckerman shows how daily life from the 1770s until World War I would have been unrecognizable—perhaps impossible—without the potato, which functioned as fast food, famine

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insurance, fuel and labor saver, budget stretcher, and bank loan, as well as delicacy. Drawing on personal diaries, contemporaneous newspaper accounts, and other primary sources, this is popular social history at its liveliest and most illuminating. (Grades 7-12)\* **Potatoes on Rooftops: Farming in the City** by Hadley Dyer (Annick Press, 2012) The urban farming movement is rapidly gaining widespread acceptance. Now it's time for kids to be a part of it, too! With a minimum of equipment and whether alone or with friends, kids can start growing fruit and vegetables at home, in a community garden, or at school. (Grades 3-7) **MH**

**Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Judy Pedersen (HarperTrophy, 2004) A vacant lot, rat-infested and filled with garbage, looked like no place for a garden. Especially to a neighborhood of strangers where no one seems to care. Until one day, a young girl clears a small space and digs into the hard-packed soil to plant her precious bean seeds. Suddenly, the soil holds promise: To Curtis, who believes he can win back Lateesha's heart with a harvest of tomatoes; to Virgil's dad, who sees a fortune to be made from growing lettuce; and even to Maricela, sixteen and pregnant, wishing she were dead. Thirteen very different voices and perspectives—old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful—tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood. (Grades 5- up)

**Squashed** by Joan Bauer (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001) Humor, agriculture and young love all come together in Joan Bauer's first novel, set in rural Iowa. Sixteen-year-old Ellie Morgan's life would be almost perfect if she could just get her potentially prize-winning pumpkin to put on about 200 more pounds—and if she could take off 20 herself...in hopes of attracting Wes, the new boy in town. (Grades 7-9) **MH**

**Sticky and Stringy: Stem and Bulb Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1999) Describes historical origins, use, and growing requirements of garlic, onions, shallots, and leeks (members of the allium family) as well as celery, asparagus, and rhubarb. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-8)

**The Story of Seeds: From Mendel's Garden to Your Plate, and How There's More of Less to Eat Around the World** by Nancy Castaldo (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016) Something as small as a seed can have a worldwide impact. Did you know there are top-secret seed vaults hidden throughout the world? And once a seed disappears, that's it—it's gone forever? With the growth of genetically modified foods, the use of many seeds is dwindling—of 80,000 edible plants, only about 150 are being cultivated. With a global cast of men and women, scientists and laypeople, and photographic documentation, Nancy Castaldo chronicles where our food comes from, and more importantly, where it is going as she digs deeper into the importance of seeds in our world. This empowering book also calls young adult readers to action with suggestions as to how they can preserve the variety of one of our most valuable food sources through simple everyday actions. Readers of Michael Pollen will enjoy the depth and fascinatingly intricate social economy of seeds. (Grades 5-8)

**Strawberry Girl** by Lois Lenski (HarperCollins, 2005) The land was theirs, but so were its hardships. Strawberries – big, ripe, and juicy. Ten-year-old Birdie Boyer can hardly wait to start picking them. But her family has just moved to the Florida backwoods, and they haven't even begun their planting. Making the new farm prosper is not easy. There is heat to suffer through, and droughts, and cold snaps. And, perhaps most worrisome of all for the Boyers, there are rowdy neighbors, just itching to start a feud. (Grades 3-7)

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**Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation** by Peggy Thomas (Calkins Creek, 2015) Thomas Jefferson was more than a president and patriot. He was also a planter and gardener who loved to watch things grow—everything from plants and crops to even his brand-new nation. As minister to France, Jefferson promoted all things American, sharing corn and pecans with his Parisian neighbors. As secretary of state, he encouraged his fellow farmers to grow olives, rice and maple trees. As president, he doubled the size of the nation with the Louisiana Purchase. Even in his retirement, Jefferson continued to nurture the nation, laying the groundwork for the University of Virginia. (Grades 3-7)

**Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities** by Amy Stewart, Briony Morrow-Cribbs (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2009) A tree that sheds poison daggers; a glistening red seed that stops the heart; a shrub that causes paralysis; a vine that strangles; and a leaf that triggered a war. In *Wicked Plants*, Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature's most appalling creations. It's an A to Z of plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, and otherwise offend. You'll learn which plants to avoid (like exploding shrubs), which plants make themselves exceedingly unwelcome (like the vine that ate the South), and which ones have been killing for centuries (like the weed that killed Abraham Lincoln's mother). (Grades 4-8)

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# Plant Growth/Seeds

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**The Dandelion Seed's Big Dream** by Joseph Anthony (Dawn Pubns 2014) Consider the dandelion. It lives life fully, flies with beauty, survives storms, endures darkness, never gives up. It is one of nature's greatest success stories. Like dandelions, each of us can make the world a brighter place. The trick is to bloom right where we are. Back matter includes information and activities about dandelions and weeds, seed dispersal, and the theme of courage, patience, and perseverance. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**From Seed To Plant** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 1993) Explores the intricate relationship between seeds and the plants which they produce. Gail Gibbons's introduction to plant growth and reproduction offers clear yet basic information about the entire plant cycle from seed pollination to mature growth. (Grades K-3)

**From Seed to Plant (Rookie Read-About Science)** by Allan Fowler (Children's Press, 2001) Introduces young children to pollination and fertilization. Colorful photos and simple text encourage children to read on their own—as they discover how seeds become plants. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**A Fruit Is A Suitcase For Seeds** by Jean Richards (Millbrook Press, 2002) Richards's carefully worded information provides an excellent introduction to seeds, their purpose, and growth that should be easy for young children to grasp. (Grades Pre-K - 2) **MH**

**A Kid's Guide to How Vegetables Grow** by Patricia Ayers (PowerKids Press, 2000) Kids will learn all about this edible and healthful part of plants. They'll learn about the growing process of these plants, how to grow them, and why kids should eat their veggies! (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Pick, Pull, Snap! Where Once a Flower Bloomed** by Lola Schaefer (Greenwillow Books, 2003) Describes how raspberries, peanuts, corn, and other foods are produced as various plants flower, create seeds, and finally bear fruit. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Plant Stems & Roots** by David M. Schwartz (Gareth Stevens Pub., 2000) Highlights stems and roots, the essential plant parts that give us radishes, blackberries, peas, milkweed, corn, strawberries, and trees. (Grades 1-3) **MH**

**The Reason for a Flower: A Book About Flowers, Pollen, and Seeds (Explore!)** by Ruth Heller (Puffin Books; Reissue edition, February 15, 1999) The reason for a flower is to manufacture seeds, but Ruth Heller shares a lot more about parts of plants and their functions in her trademark rhythmic style. (Grades K-3)

**A Seed Grows : My First Look at a Plant's Life** by Pamela Hickman (Kids Can Press Ltd., 1996) The My First Look at series provides young children with an introduction to the world around them. Follows the growth of a plant, from a peek inside a sprouting seed to the harvest of the fruit. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**



**A Seed is Sleepy** by award-winning artist Sylvia Long and author Dianna Hutts Aston (Chronicle Books, 2014) This gorgeous book offers children a beautiful and informative look at the intricate, complex, and often surprising world of seeds. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, the book introduces children to a fascinating array of seed and plant facts, making it perfect reading material at home or in the classroom. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**The Story of Seeds: From Mendel's Garden to Your Plate, and How There's More of Less to Eat Around the World** by Nancy Castaldo (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016) Something as small as a seed can have a worldwide impact. Did you know there are top-secret seed vaults hidden throughout the world? And once a seed disappears, that's it—it's gone forever? With the growth of genetically modified foods, the use of many seeds is dwindling—of 80,000 edible plants, only about 150 are being cultivated. With a global cast of men and women, scientists and laypeople, and photographic documentation, Nancy Castaldo chronicles where our food comes from, and more importantly, where it is going as she digs deeper into the importance of seeds in our world. This empowering book also calls young adult readers to action with suggestions as to how they can preserve the variety of one of our most valuable food sources through simple everyday actions. Readers of Michael Pollen will enjoy the depth and fascinatingly intricate social economy of seeds. (Grades 5-8)

**Sunflower House** by Eve Bunting (HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition 1999) A little boy plants sunflower seeds in a big circle. He cares for them and watches them grow into a round wall of stems with golden flowers at the top. After playing in the "sunflower house" all summer, he and his friends collect the seeds from the dying plants to sow for next summer's flowers. Rhymed couplets written in first person express the boy's determination, surprise, and delight as he weaves his own play into the sunflowers' cycle from seed to seed. The watercolor-and-colored pencil artwork shows a variety of perspectives, from cross sections of the seed sprouting underground to moonlit scenes of children sleeping out in the sunflower house. Primary and preschool teachers will find this a colorful, child-appealing addition to units on plants. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**The Tiny Seed** by Eric Carle (Alphabet Press, 1987) The story of the life cycle of a plant, with the seed playing a central role. The seed's adventure starts in one autumn and ends in the next. Colorful illustrations. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**A Tree is a Plant** by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (HarperCollins, 2001) From the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series, this newly illustrated book on the science of trees is well designed for preschool and early-primary-grade children. The text, from the 1960 edition of the book, follows an apple plant from seed to sprout to tree, including the development of blossoms, leaves, and fruit. The functions of roots, trunk, branches, and leaves are also discussed, as well as the seasonal changes in the tree. (Pre-K-3)

**What is a Plant? (The Science of Living Things)** by Bobbie Kalman (Crabtree Publishing Company, 2000) Plants provide people and animals with food, shelter, and even oxygen. Plants help us live and grow, but how does a plant grow? Where do plants grow? What is a Plant? Introduces young readers to a variety of plant types, including ferns, carnivorous plants, mosses, and trees. (Grades 2-4)

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# Science and Nature

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**Be a Friend to Trees (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out, Stage 2)** by Patricia Lauber, illustrated by Holly Keller (HarperCollins, 1994) Part of the Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science series, this conveys a lot of information in a simple text with clear line-and-watercolor illustrations. The opening is banal ("Trees are nice"), but Lauber goes on to show that trees are also something we can't live without. She talks about trees as home and food for various animals, as providers of fruits and nuts for humans, as sources of wood and paper, and as conservers of soil. Then words and pictures demonstrate the process of photosynthesis, step-by-step: how trees make food in their leaves and how they release the oxygen we need to breathe. A final section gives hands-on examples for recycling paper and shows two youngsters planting a tree. (Grades K-4)

**The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth** by Anita Silvey (Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2012) Driven by an all-consuming passion, the plant hunters traveled around the world, facing challenges at every turn: tropical illnesses, extreme terrain, and dangerous animals. They battled piranhas, tigers, and vampire bats. Even the plants themselves could be lethal! But these intrepid eighteenth- and nineteenth-century explorers were determined to find and collect new and unusual specimens, no matter what the cost. Then they tried to transport the plants—and themselves—home alive. Creating an important legacy in science, medicine, and agriculture, the plant hunters still inspire the scientific and environmental work of contemporary plant enthusiasts. (Grades 3-7)

**Planting the Wild Garden** by Kathryn O. Galbraith, illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin (Peachtree Publishers, 2015) A farmer and her son carefully plant seeds in their garden. In the wild garden, many seeds are planted too, but not by farmers hands. Different kinds of animals transport all sorts of seeds, often without knowing it. Sometimes rain washes seeds away to a new and unexpected location. And sometimes something extraordinary occurs, as when the pods of Scotch broom burst open explosively in the summer heat, scattering seeds everywhere like popcorn. Kathryn Galbraith's lyrical prose seamlessly combines with Wendy Halperin's elegant, crisp illustrations to show that many elements-some unexpected-work together through the seasons to create and sustain the wild meadow garden. (Grades 1-4)

**Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes** by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton (Candlewick, 2016) All around the world—in the sea, in the soil, in the air, and in your body—there are living things so tiny that millions could fit on an ant's antenna. They're busy doing all sorts of things, from giving you a cold and making yogurt to eroding mountains and helping to make the air we breathe. The information that some microbes cause illness is placed within the context of the many amazing things they accomplish.(Grades K-4)

\* **A Tree is a Plant** by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (HarperCollins, 2001) From the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series, this newly illustrated book on the science of trees is well designed for preschool and early-primary-grade children. The text, from the 1960 edition of the book, follows an apple plant from seed to sprout to tree, including the development

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of blossoms, leaves, and fruit. The functions of roots, trunk, branches, and leaves are also discussed, as well as the seasonal changes in the tree. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Wonder Garden: Wander through 5 habitats to discover 80 amazing animals** by Jenny Broom, illustrated by Kristjana S Williams (Wide Eyed Editions, 2015) Open the gates of the Wonder Garden to explore five of Earth's most extraordinary habitats, each filled with incredible creatures and epic scenery. Trek through the Amazon Rainforest, travel to the Chihuahuan Desert, dive in the Great Barrier Reef, delve deep into the Black Forest and stand on the roof of the world - the Himalayan Mountains - to see nature at its wildest. Breathtaking, engraved illustrations bring to life Earth's spectacular Wonder Garden. (Grades 2-5)

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# Weather/Seasons

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**Animals in Winter** by Henrietta Bancroft, Richard G. Van Gelder, illustrated by Helen K. Davie (HarperCollins, 1996) Have you ever seen a butterfly in the snow? Probably not. Butterflies can't survive cold weather, so when winter comes, many butterflies fly to warmer places. They migrate. Woodchucks don't like cold weather either but they don't migrate; they hibernate. Woodchucks sleep in their dens all winter long. Read and find out how other animals cope with winter's worst weather. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Clouds** by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by Frane Lessac (HarperCollins, 2008) Do you ever wake up and wonder what the weather will be? Instead of turning on the TV to find out, you can just look out your window at the clouds. How do you know what type of clouds can forecast a change of weather? Rockwell introduces 11 different types of clouds according to their positions in the atmosphere. Besides the basics—fog, cirrus, stratus, and cumulus—she also provides information about cirrostratus, cirrocumulus, cumulonimbus, altostratus, altocumulus, nimbostratus, and stratocumulus. The author describes each type of cloud formation, explains where it is found in the sky, and tells what kind of weather is associated with it. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Down Comes the Rain** by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by James Graham Hale (HarperCollins, 1997) This newly illustrated edition is a concise and informative look at the water cycle. Branley provides a fundamental understanding of how water is recycled, how clouds are formed, and why rain and hail occur. A few easy science activities are included. Words that might be unfamiliar to readers are defined in context. The pen-and-ink with watercolor wash paintings clearly interpret the concepts presented on each page. Throughout the book, speech bubbles from a group of children provide further clarification. This beginning reader would be especially useful to elementary teachers, but will also fill a niche for young researchers. (Grades K-4)

**Feel the Wind** by Arthur Dorros (HarperCollins, 2000) Have you ever felt the wind tickle your face or heard it whistle through your window? Did you know that some wind travels faster than a car? "Feel the Wind" is a great tool for teaching children about wind and weather. Arthur Dorros defines wind and its uses in a way that children can easily understand. The book includes the causes of wind, ways wind is used by people and nature, and easy directions for making a weather vane. This book is a must for any young meteorologist. (Grades K-4)

**Fletcher and the Falling Leaves** by Julia Rawlinson, illustrated by Tiphonie Beeke (Greenwillow Books, 2008) When the leaves on his favorite tree turn brown and begin to drop, Fletcher, a young fox, worries that the tree is sick. Although he tries his best to help the tree, the last leaf finally falls. The next day when Fletcher visits the tree, he sees a magical sight that convinces him that falling leaves don't signify the tree's demise. Rawlinson's carefully worded text is superbly matched by Beeke's impressionistic watercolors. For the scene in which Fletcher beholds the "magical sight" of the tree covered with ice, sparkly glitter has been glued to the pages; the effect will make children gasp with delight. (Pre-K-2)

**Leaf Man** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt, 2005) Fall has come, the wind is gusting, and Leaf Man is on the move. Is he drifting east, over the marsh and ducks and geese? Or is he heading west, above the orchards, prairie meadows, and spotted cows? No one's quite sure, but this much is certain: A Leaf Man's got to go where the wind blows. With illustrations made from actual fall leaves and die-cut pages on every spread that reveal gorgeous landscape vistas, here is a playful, whimsical, and evocative book that celebrates the natural world and the rich imaginative life of children. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Little Yellow Leaf** by Carin Berger (Greenwillow Books, 2008) As all the other leaves float off and fly past, Little Yellow Leaf thinks, I'm not ready yet. As the seasons change all around, Little Yellow Leaf holds on to the tree. Still not ready. Will Little Yellow Leaf ever be ready? This is a story for anyone who has ever been afraid of facing the unknown—and a celebration of the friends who help us take the leap. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Reasons for Seasons** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 1996) Gibbons explains in succinct, easy-to-understand terms what causes the seasons to change in the two hemispheres. She uses simple words and clear, colorful pictures to explain the seasons, the solstices, and the equinoxes. Besides discussing the earth's tilt and orbit, she also comments on what people and animals do in each season of the year. (Grades K-3)

**Snowflake Bentley** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2009) Most children are captivated by snow, but how many go on to make it their lifework? This beautiful biography, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, tells the true story of a Vermont farm boy who was mesmerized by snowflakes. Wilson Bentley was fascinated by the six-sided frozen phenomena, and once he acquired a microscope with a camera, his childhood preoccupation took on a more scientific leaning. Bentley spent his life taking countless exquisite photographs (many that are still used in nature photography today), examining the tiny crystals and their delicate, mathematical structures. Jacqueline Briggs Martin tells this tale with simple, graceful prose that will engage children's imaginations. Edifying and snowflake-scattered sidebars offer more information about Bentley's methods and snowflake science. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder** by Mark Cassino (Chronicle Books, 2009) How do snow crystals form? What shapes can they take? Are no two snow crystals alike? These questions and more are answered in this visually stunning exploration of the science of snow. Perfect for reading on winter days, the book features photos of real snow crystals in their beautiful diversity. Snowflake-catching instructions are also included. Young readers expecting the customary array of lacy stars won't be disappointed—but the dazzling and detailed close-ups also capture snow crystals in rarely seen shapes, from plates and columns to multilayered forms as complex as clockwork. (Grades 2-4)

**Weather Words and What They Mean** by Gail Gibbon (Holiday House, 1992) Gibbons' easily identifiable artistic style works well with her explanations of sometimes misunderstood weather-related terms. Drawings are appealing, attractively arranged, and closely matched to the textual information. Temperature, air pressure, moisture, and wind are broadly defined and illustrated. Each of the four areas is then broken down further: moisture is illustrated as rain, drizzle, hail, snow, etc. The term describing each type of weather phenomenon is highly visible in large type and is contained in a dialogue balloon that stands out from the accompanying

illustration. One page of curious weather facts concludes the book. An attractive introduction for weather units in the primary grades, along with Gibbon's Weather Forecasting (Grades K-3)

**Why Do Leaves Change Color?** by Betsy Maestro, illustrated by Loretta Krupinski (HarperCollins, 2015) It's fall! The leaves are changing color. This Let's-Read-and-Find-Out picture book explains the magical process of how leaves change their color in autumn. Now rebranded with a new cover look, this classic picture book features graceful text and simple, fun diagrams to explain concepts like photosynthesis and the different types of leaves. This book also includes simple activities to do with leaves like leaf rubbings. Both the text and art were expert-vetted for accuracy. This is a Level 2 Let's-Read-and-Find-Out, which means the book explores more challenging concepts perfect for children in the primary grades and supports the Common Core Learning Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold** by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2014) In this outstanding picture book collection of poems by Newberry Honor-winning poet, Joyce Sidman, discover how animals stay alive in the wintertime and learn about their secret lives happening under the snow. The 12 selections in this collection offer a winter wonderland of deftly crafted poetry, fascinating science facts, an amazingly rich vocabulary, and stunning illustrations.(Grades K-4)

# Specific Fruits and Veggies:

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## Apples

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**Apple Farmer Annie** by Monica Wellington (Puffin Books, 2004) Apple cider, applesauce, apple muffins, cakes, and pies! Annie is a very busy apple farmer. She bakes yummy treats with the apples she picks and saves her best apples to sell at the market. Follow Annie through her apple-filled day of picking, counting, sorting, baking, and selling, and then try making some of her simple apple recipes. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Apples** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 2000) Plenty of information appears in both words and images, including identification of the basic parts of the apple; some historical scenes of the apple in America (including both Johnny Appleseed and a picture of smiling Native American and Pilgrim families sharing a large bowl of shiny reds); and the apple's progress through the seasons, from blossom to fruit to harvest to Halloween bobbing and caramel coating. The final pages include pictures of different apple varieties; instructions on how to plant and care for an apple tree, bake a pie, make cider; and a back page of random fun facts. (Grades K-3)

**Apples for Everyone** by Jill Esbaum (National Geographic Children's Books, 2009) Using minimal text with National Geographic's typically fine photographs, Esbaum brings out familiar, comforting details of the outdoors—and slips in a lesson or two so skillfully readers won't even mind. Apples for Everyone starts small with extreme close-ups of buds and bees before wowing with wide shots of apple-strewn orchards and massive buckets of fruit. The writing flows with sensory details ("Your teeth sink in—crunch!—and tart-sweet juice dribbles down your chin") and works in bits of history, such as the story of Johnny Appleseed. Fun, cozy, evocative stuff Grades (Grades K-3)

**How Do Apples Grow?** by Betsy Maestro (HarperCollins, 2000) Beginning with the bare branches of winter, the Maestros describe the apple until the time of picking. The parts of the flower are presented in a simple manner and labeled. Fertilization is also discussed in a way that is easily understood. The text is brief, but adequate in its content. Soft watercolor illustrations enhance the text. (Grades K-3)

\* **A Tree is a Plant** by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (HarperCollins, 2001) From the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series, this newly illustrated book on the science of trees is well designed for preschool and early-primary-grade children. The text, from the 1960 edition of the book, follows an apple plant from seed to sprout to tree, including the development of blossoms, leaves, and fruit. The functions of roots, trunk, branches, and leaves are also discussed, as well as the seasonal changes in the tree. (Grades Pre-K-3)

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# Beets

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\* **Buried Treasure: Roots and Tubers** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publishing Company, 1998) After an introduction giving general plant information, there are chapters on potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, and radishes. The authors describe the origin and history of each vegetable; growing and production techniques; and the way the food affects the lives of the people who raise, eat, and use it around the world. Each chapter also contains a simple recipe. (Grades 4-7)

**Edgar, Allan and Poe and the Tell-Tale Beets** by Natalie Rompella (Lobster Press, 2009) It all began with the beets. The revoltingly red beets that drove Edgar, Allan, and Poe to do the horrendously horrible thing that they did. Their mother has one unbreakable rule: "No dessert until you finish your dinner." But how can Edgar, Allan, and Poe possibly clear their plates when there are Brussels sprouts to be swallowed, liver to be chewed, and worst of all, beets to be bitten? (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

\* **Oliver's Vegetables.** by Vivian French (Orchard Books, 1995) Do you like chips? Oliver does, in fact, he won't eat anything else - until he plays a game with his grandpa. Whatever vegetable Oliver finds in the garden, he must eat. On Monday, he pulls up carrots, on Tuesday, it is spinach ... This is an excellent book for parents with slightly fussy children and it introduces the days of the week. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

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# Broccoli

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\* **Eddie's Garden and How to Make Things Grow** by Sarah Garland (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009) How Eddie's garden develops and grows is delightfully told in this gentle story with full-color illustrations. Children will be inspired by the idea that they can grow plants themselves. Includes how-to spreads & a glossary for budding gardeners. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

\* **Green Power: Leaf and Flower Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 2001) Describes the history, growing requirements, uses, and food value of various leafy green vegetables and vegetable flowers, including cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Includes recipes. (Grades 5 -7) **MH**

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**Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli** by Barbara Hicks (Alfred A. Knopf, 2009) Monsters insist they don't like broccoli. They'd rather snack on tractors or a rocket ship or two, or tender trailer tidbits, or a wheely, steely stew. But boy do those trees they're munching on look an awful lot like broccoli. Maybe vegetables aren't so bad after all! (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

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## Cabbage

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**Cabbages and Kings** by Elizabeth Seabrook, illustrated by Jamie Wyeth (Viking Juvenile, 1997) A special friendship begins in Farmer Green's garden when a young asparagus stalk strikes up a conversation with his neighbor, a cabbage, and the two vegetables discover that they have much in common. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**The Giant Cabbage** by Cherie Stihler, illustrated by Jeremiah Trammell (Little Bigfoot, 2003) Moose discovers a very big cabbage in his garden that could win first prize at the Alaska State Fair. But there's a problem—it's so huge he can't lift it! An old Russian folktale inspired *The Giant Cabbage*, but this contemporary version showcases Alaska with vivid illustrations, adorable animal friends, and verbal twists and turns. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Katie's Cabbage** by Katie Stagliano, illustrated by Karen Heid (University of South Carolina Press, 2014) Katie's Cabbage is the inspirational true story of how Katie Stagliano, a third grader from Summerville, South Carolina, grew a forty-pound cabbage in her backyard and donated it to help feed 275 people at a local soup kitchen. In her own words, Katie shares the story of the little cabbage seedling and the big ideas of generosity and service that motivated her to turn this experience into Katie's Krops, a national youth movement aimed at ending hunger one vegetable garden at a time. *Katie's Cabbage* reminds us of how small things can grow and thrive when nurtured with tender loving and care and of how one person, with the support of family, friends, and community, can help make a powerful difference in the lives of so many. (Grades 2-5)

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## Carrots

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**The Carrot Seed** by Ruth Krauss (Harper Festival, 1993) When a little boy plants a carrot seed, everyone tells him it won't grow. But when you are very young, there are some things that

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you just know, and the little boy knows that one day a carrot will come up. So he waters his seed, and pulls the weeds, and he waits... (Grades PreK–3) **MH**

**Carrot Soup** by John Segal (Margaret K. McElderberry Books, 2006) Take one rabbit, patiently growing carrots. Add his friends – Mole, Dog, Cat, Duck, and Pig. Mix all ingredients together for a superdelicious surprise! (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Carrots** by Inez Synder (Scholastic Library Publishing, 2004) Shows young readers how the vegetable is grown, picked, and winds up in people's hands, ready to eat. (Grades K-2)

**Carrots Grow Underground (How Fruits and Vegetables Grow)** by Mari Schuh (Capstone Press, 2011) Simple text and photographs describe how carrots grow underground. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Giant Carrot** by Allan Manham (Orchard Books, 2011) When brilliant gardener Jack tries to pull up a giant carrot he gets more than he bargained for, but luckily all his friends are on hand to help ... This fun-filled tale is brought to life by the illustrator of the bestselling Secret Fairy series. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Giant Carrot** by Jan Peck (Dial, 1998) An adaptation of a Russian folktale. Little Isabelle surprises her family with her unique way of helping a carrot seed grow and of getting the huge vegetable from the ground. Includes recipe for carrot pudding. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Just Enough Carrots** by Stuart Murphy (HarperCollins, 1997) Elephants, rabbits, and birds shop in this funny grocery store. Can you guess what the little rabbit wants more of? Munchy, crunchy carrots, of course! And fewer of? Squirmy worms and chewy peanuts (yuck!). So why is his mother buying all those cans of worms? (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Life Cycle of a Carrot** by Linda Taglaferro (Capstone Press, 2007) Watch tiny carrot seeds grow into carrots we eat. Learn about this vegetable's life cycle from start to finish. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

\***Oliver's Vegetables** by Vivian French (Hodder Children's Books, 1995) Do you like chips? Oliver does, in fact, he won't eat anything else - until he plays a game with his grandpa. Whatever vegetable Oliver finds in the garden, he must eat. On Monday, he pulls up carrots, on Tuesday, it is spinach ... This is an excellent book for parents with slightly fussy children and it introduces the days of the week. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman (HarperTeen, 2004) A vacant lot, rat-infested and filled with garbage, looked like no place for a garden. Until one day, a young girl clears a small space and digs into the hard-packed soil to plant her precious bean seeds. Suddenly, the soil holds promise: To Curtis, who believes he can win back Lateesha's heart with a harvest of tomatoes; to Virgil's dad, who sees a fortune to be made from growing lettuce; and even to Maricela, sixteen and pregnant, wishing she were dead. Thirteen very different voices and perspectives—old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful—tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood. (Grades 5- up) **MH**

**Tops & Bottoms** by Janet Stevens (Harcourt Children's Books, 1995) Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots in American slave tales, "Tops & Bottoms" celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship. (Grades K-2) **MH**

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**The Very Big Carrot** by Satoe Tone (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013) When six rabbits find a giant carrot, they're not sure exactly what they should do with it. They have all sorts of grand and adventurous ideas. After they have exhausted their ideas, they find that they are rather hungry. . . and they may have forgotten the most obvious solution of all. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

\***Who Grew My Soup?** by Tom Darbyshire (Publications International, Ltd., 2009) Tells the story of young Phineas Quinn and his questions about the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. "I'll not take one sip of this vegetable goop unless you tell me this: Who grew my soup?" Much to Phin's surprise, a man in a flying tomato balloon shows up to answer this stirring question. Join Phin and magical Mr. Mattoo as they fly from farm to farm, learning about amazing vegetables and the farmers who grow them. (Grades K-3)

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## Corn

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**Anna's Corn** by Barbara Santucci (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2002) Anna is reluctant to plant the kernels of corn her grandpa has left her upon his death, until she realizes that the act will help her remember the times they listened to the music of the corn together. The growing cycle of corn provides a backdrop for a beautiful story. (Grades 1-4) **MH**

**Carlos and the Cornfield** by Jan Romero Stevens (Cooper Square Publishing, 1999) When he sees the results of not following his father's instructions on the proper way to plant corn, a young boy tries to make things right. The growing cycle of corn provides a backdrop for a valuable lesson in doing a job right the first time. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Corn** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 2009) Popcorn, corn on the cob, corn dogs, cornflakes--corn is used in many children's favorite foods. This book offers a cornucopia of information about the history of corn as well as details concerning planting, cultivation, harvesting, and its many uses. (Grades 1-4) **MH**

**The Corn Grows Ripe** by Dorothy Rhoades (Viking Press, 1956) When his father is badly injured in an accident, a young Mayan boy called Tigre wonders who will plant and harvest the corn that they need to survive--and to please the Mayan gods. Twelve-year-old Tigre has never done a man's work before. Now he will have to take his father's place. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians** by Alike (Harper Trophy, 1986) Popcorn, corn on the cob, cornbread -- and corncob pipes! Tacos and tamales and tortillas! All these and many other good things come from an amazing plant that the Indians discovered and taught the white man how to grow. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Corn Raid: A Story of the Jamestown Settlement** by James Lincoln Collier (NTC Publishing, 2000) Life is hard for 12-year-old Richard Ayre, a London orphan who had been scooped off the streets as a child and sent to Jamestown Colony. But a chance encounter with an Indian boy his own age gives him a friend, the first real friend he has had in years-until his master's plan to raid an Indian village for corn turns Richard's world upside down. (Grades 5-7)

**Four Seasons of Corn** by Sally Hunter (Lerner Publishing, 1996) Corn remains important to many Winnebago people. In this photographic essay, 12-year-old Russell learns the traditions of corn from his grandfather, who is from the Winnebago reservation in Nebraska. (Grades 3-6)  
MH

**The Life and Times of Corn** by Charles Micucci (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2009) "Who knew those little kernels contained so much history and lore? In a conversational and lively narrative, the author follows the growth, cultivation and shocking number of uses of this "a-maize-ing" plant. (Grades Pre-K-3) MH

**The Popcorn Book** by Tomie Paola (Holiday House, 1984) Presents a variety of interesting facts about popcorn and includes two recipes. (Grades K-3) MH

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# Cucumbers

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**Cool as a Cucumber, Hot as a Pepper: Fruit Vegetables (Plants We Eat)** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1998) Discusses the history and uses of plants that are normally thought of as vegetables but share some of the traits of fruits, such as tomatoes, avocados, squash, and peppers. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-8)

**Cucumber Soup** by Vickie Leigh Krudwig (Fulcrum Publishing, 1998) Discover what ten ants do when a cucumber falls on their anthill! (Grades Pre-K-1) MH

**Pickled: Vegetables, Fruits, Roots, More - Preserving a World of Tastes and Traditions** by Lucy Norris (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 2003) Every cuisine has its pickle, and in "Pickled" Norris takes readers through cucumbers and beyond, presenting a varied collection of more than 80 recipes, each one passed down in families through the generations. Sprinkled throughout with family and historical photos, there's a story behind every pickle. (Grades 5-12)  
MH

**The Pickle Patch Bathtub** by Frances Kennedy (Tricycle Press, 2004) It's 1925 and Donna Delle Philp's legs have grown too long for the family's old washtub. But with her parents busy making ends meet on the farm, it's up to Donna to find a solution. After months of toil-and some help from her brother and sisters, she earns enough money to buy the family a real bathtub. (Grades Pre-K-2) MH

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## Kale (See Salad Greens)

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**Captain Kale and the Super Foods** by Amy Roth (Happy House Press, 2013) Every kid would love to be a Superhero! Well, they can... right in their own homes by becoming friends with The Superfoods and becoming a Superkid! This story is about a boy who is very unhealthy and one night he witnesses Captain Kale and the Superfoods battling with Sneaky Snack Cake and all the junk food in his pantry. They are in a battle over his health! He learns how important it is to eat healthy nutritious fruits and vegetables and how much it improves his health. Now he is strong and well and is telling all his friends how to become a Superkid! (Grades 1-5)

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## Lettuce (See Salad Greens)

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**Grow Your Own Lettuce** by Helen Lanz (Sea to Sea Publications, 2012) It's simple to grow your own lettuce! In this book find out what equipment you will need, how to grow a healthy plant, and about the science in growing plants. You can also find useful tips, nutrition facts and a recipe. (Grades 4-7) **MH**

\***Lettuce Introduce You: Poems About Food** by Laura Purdie Salas (Capstone Press, 2009) Striking photos pair with well-crafted wordplay in these themed introductions to rhyme and rhythm. Poems in various forms celebrate everything from sitting in class to sailing through space, including salad, corn, carrots & Brussels sprouts. (Grades K-2) **MH**

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## Parsnips (See Root Vegetables)

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# Potatoes

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**The Biography of Potatoes (How Did That Get Here?)** by Ellen Rodger (Crabtree Pub. Co., 2007) Spanish conquistadors brought the potato from South America to Europe in the 1500s. Since then, the potato has helped keep peasants from starving, fed armies, and is today the world's most popular vegetable. The book underlines the importance of this source of nutrition. (Grades 3-8) **MH**

**Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow A Rainbow Garden** by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994) An introduction to organic gardening which explains how to grow a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables in unexpected colors, outlining simple guidelines for planning, planting, caring for, and troubleshooting a rainbow garden. Also includes some special recipes. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

**The Enormous Potato** by Aubrey Davis (Kids Can Press; 1st Edition, 1997) A sunny retelling of Tolstoy's *The Great Big Enormous Turnip* in which the characters work together and share the rewards of their labor. A plump, pigeon-toed farmer plants a potato eye that grows into "the biggest potato in the world." Unable to uproot it himself, he calls for his wife's assistance. The stubborn spud remains firmly planted, even after his daughter, dog, and cat are recruited. It is only with the small mouse's one-handed contribution to the group effort that the vegetable is finally ripped from the ground. The family shares its harvest with the jubilant townspeople until the potato, like the story, is gone. With cheerful golden yellow backdrops, the humorous watercolor-and-pencil illustrations reveal the chubby characters grimacing as they struggle to free the fleshy root from the muddy ground and their pleasure in consuming it. An entertaining example of teamwork and cooperation, this simply told tale would work as a read-aloud and, with its short sentences, repetition, and large print, as an easy-reader. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

**Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato** by Tomie DePaola (Grosset & Dunlap, 2009) This inspired Irish folktale clearly illustrates that taking the easy way out of a situation is sometimes more trouble than it's worth. Potato farmer Jamie O'Rourke, "the laziest man in all of Ireland," is unfortunately not the brightest of men either. The prospect of a harsh and foodless winter, due to meager crops, and the ceaseless nagging of his hardworking wife impel Jamie to the church to pray for help. As Irish luck would have it, Jamie happens upon and captures a leprechaun who cunningly offers magic potato seeds instead of the traditional pot of gold. The resulting colossal spud feeds the O'Rourkes and the other villagers far longer than anyone could have imagined. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

\***Potatoes on Rooftops: Farming in the City** by Hadley Dyer (Annick Press, 2012) The urban farming movement is rapidly gaining widespread acceptance. Now it's time for kids to be a part of it, too! With a minimum of equipment and whether alone or with friends, kids can start growing fruit and vegetables at home, in a community garden, or at school. (Grades 3-7) **MH**

**The Potato: How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World** by Larry Zuckerman (North Point Press; 1st Edition, 1999) *The Potato* tells the story of how a humble vegetable, once

regarded as trash food, had as revolutionary an impact on Western history as the railroad or the automobile. Using Ireland, England, France, and the United States as examples, Larry Zuckerman shows how daily life from the 1770s until World War I would have been unrecognizable-perhaps impossible-without the potato, which functioned as fast food, famine insurance, fuel and labor saver, budget stretcher, and bank loan, as well as delicacy. Drawing on personal diaries, contemporaneous newspaper accounts, and other primary sources, this is popular social history at its liveliest and most illuminating. (Grades 7-12)

**Two Old Potatoes and Me** by John Coy (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2003) One day at her dad's house, a young girl finds two old potatoes in the cupboard. "Gross." But before she can throw them away, her dad suggests they try to grow new potatoes from the old ones, which have sprouted eyes. Told from May to September, the potato-growing season, the story includes all the basic steps for growing potatoes while subtly dealing with the parents' recent divorce. Just like the new potatoes that emerge from ugly old potatoes, this dad and daughter move on and make a new life together in the face of unavoidable and unpleasant change. (Grades K-3) **MH**

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# Pumpkin

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**Apples and Pumpkins** by Anne Rockwell (Macmillan, 1989) "When red and yellow leaves are on the trees," a little girl goes with her parents to a farm where they pick apples and choose "the best pumpkin of them all." Back home, she helps to carve a grinning jack-o'-lantern face on the big orange pumpkin, which guards their doorstep on Halloween night while her mother hands out shiny red apples and she and her father go trick-or-treating with the neighborhood ghosts and goblins. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Bumpy Little Pumpkin** by Margery Cuyler (Scholastic Press, 2005) Little Nell chooses an unusual pumpkin for her Halloween jack-o'-lantern, despite her big sisters' criticisms. A reassuring story about individuality, friendship, and finding beauty in the imperfect and unusual. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Delicious!: A Pumpkin Soup Story** by Helen Cooper (Doubleday, 2006) Unable to find a suitable pumpkin to use for soup, Cat and Squirrel attempt to make other versions for Duck, their fussy friend, but it's only when they find a way to make the dish orange that Duck agrees it's the best soup he ever tasted. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**From Seed to Pumpkin** by Wendy Pfeffer (HarperCollins, 2004) Pumpkins can be baked in a pie. Pumpkins can be carved into jack-o'-lanterns. Pumpkin seeds can be roasted for a healthy snack. But how does a tiny seed turn into a big pumpkin? Read and find out what a pumpkin seed needs to help it grow! (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?** by G. Karas, M. McNamara (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007) Charlie, the smallest child in his first grade class, is amazed to discover that of the three pumpkins his teacher brings to school, the tiniest one has the most seeds. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow/Washington Irving** illustrated by Gris Grimley (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007) A superstitious schoolmaster, in love with a wealthy farmer's daughter, has a terrifying encounter with a headless horseman. (Grades 3-5) **MH**

**Mystery Vine: A Pumpkin Surprise** by Cathryn Falwell (Greenwillow Books, 2009) As the seasons go by, the mystery vine grows and grows and grows. Now, finally, it is autumn, and the mystery vine is no longer a mystery. Hello, pumpkins! This is the season for jack-o'-lanterns, pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, and pumpkin seeds—ready for toasting and munching, and for saving and planting come spring. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Pick a Pumpkin, Mrs. Millie!** by Judy Cox (Marshall Cavendish, 2009) Silly teacher Mrs. Millie gets her words wrong when the class goes on a field trip to a pumpkin patch. Word play has never been so much fun as on a class trip to a farm. (Grades K-2) **MH**

**Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden** by George Levenson (Tricycle Press, 1999) Rhyming text and photographs follow a pumpkin patch as it grows and changes, from seeds to plants to pumpkins ready to harvest, to jack-o'-lanterns and then to seeds again. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**The Pumpkin Book** by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 2000) Describes how pumpkins come in different shapes and sizes, how they grow, and their traditional uses and cultural significance. Includes instructions for carving a pumpkin and drying the seeds. (Grades 1-4) **MH**

**Pumpkin Jack** by Will Hubbell (Albert Whitman & Company, 2013) The first pumpkin Tim ever carved was fierce and funny, and he named it Jack. When Halloween was over and the pumpkin was beginning to rot, Tim set it out in the garden and throughout the weeks he watched it change. By spring, a plant began to grow! Will Hubbell's gentle story and beautifully detailed illustrations give an intimate look at the cycle of life. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Pumpkin, Pumpkin** by Jeanne Titherington (Greenwillow Books, 1986) Jamie plants a pumpkin seed in the spring and, after watching it grow all summer, carves a face in it for Halloween! But best of all, he saves some seeds that he will plant again next spring. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Pumpkin Soup** by Helen Cooper (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1998) The Cat and the Squirrel come to blows with the Duck in arguing about who will perform what duty in preparing their pumpkin soup, and they almost lose the Duck's friendship when he decides to leave them. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins** by Katie McKy (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008) After five brothers accidentally scatter pumpkin seeds over a small town, they feel responsible when pumpkins and vines begin to overrun the houses the next year. The boys secretly try to make things right and are rewarded with delicious watermelons for their efforts. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Pumpkins** by Jacqueline Farmer (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2004). Text and illustrations provide information about pumpkins—ranging from legends to growing and carving advice, recipes and website references. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

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**Pumpkins** by Ken Robbins (Roaring Brook Press, 2006) Portrays the pumpkin from seed, to sprout, to flower, to fully fledged fruit, and back again. Instructions are given to (safely) carve a jack-o'-lantern. (Grades K-2) **MH**

**Pumpkins: A Story for a Field** by Mary Lyn Ray (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992) This is a story about a field and a man who loved it enough to do something to save it from development. Based on the author's personal efforts to protect the land, this story broadcasts a deliberate and timely environmental message that anyone can make a difference. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Squashed** by Joan Bauer (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001) Humor, agriculture and young love all come together in Joan Bauer's first novel, set in rural Iowa. Sixteen-year-old Ellie Morgan's life would be almost perfect if she could just get her potentially prize-winning pumpkin to put on about 200 more pounds—and if she could take off 20 herself...in hopes of attracting Wes, the new boy in town. (Grades 7-9) **MH**

**Too Many Pumpkins** by Linda White (Holiday House, 1996) Rebecca Estelle, an old woman, has hated pumpkins ever since she was a girl and her family had nothing else to eat. For years and years, white-haired Rebecca had been avoiding eating pumpkins when—SPLAT—a giant pumpkin fell off an overloaded truck and smashed into her yard. She buried the mess so she wouldn't have to look at it, and, as you might imagine, she witnessed a bumper crop the following fall. With countless unwelcome pumpkins to deal with, Rebecca Estelle turns disaster into a celebration. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**The Very Best Pumpkin** by Mark Moulton (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2010) One summer Peter finds a lonely pumpkin all by itself in the field, and with his tender care, the pumpkin flourishes. By autumn, it's the very best pumpkin of all, and Peter wants to keep it for himself. But when a young girl shows up at the farm in quest of a perfect pumpkin, will Peter pass on his prized pumpkin and gain a friend? (Grades Pre-K - 1) **MH**

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## Root Vegetables (Parsnips, Turnips)

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\***Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow A Rainbow Garden** by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994) An introduction to organic gardening which explains how to grow a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables in unexpected colors, outlining simple guidelines for planning, planting, caring for, and troubleshooting a rainbow garden. Also includes some special recipes. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

**The Gigantic Turnip** by Alexei Tolstoy (Barefoot Books, 1999) This hilarious retelling of the classic Russian tale about a farmer whose turnip is impossible to pull from the ground uses simple vocabulary and is ideal for reading aloud. Its cumulative theme will soon have young readers gleefully joining in, and Irish artist Niamh Sharkey's wonderfully quirky illustrations will delight and fascinate all ages. (Grades Pre-K-2) **MH**

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**Grandma Lena's Big Ol' Turnip** by D. Hester (Albert Whitman & Company, 2005) Grandma Lena has a backyard garden. In winter, she pores over seed catalogs, looking for turnips. In spring, children follow along as she plants and tends the seeds. Then, one day in June, the turnips come up, with one towering over the rest. So big is the turnip that Grandma Lena must enlist the members of her family, ending with the dog and the toddler, to yank it out, and when they do, it fills most of a double-page spread. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Plant Stems & Roots** by David M. Schwartz (Gareth Stevens Pub., 2000) Highlights stems and roots, the essential plant parts that give us radishes, blackberries, peas, milkweed, corn, strawberries, and trees. (Grades 1-3) **MH**

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## Salad Greens (Cabbage, Lettuce, Kale)

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**Cabbages and Kings** by Elizabeth Seabrook, illustrated by Jamie Wyeth (Viking Juvenile, 1997) A special friendship begins in Farmer Green's garden when a young asparagus stalk strikes up a conversation with his neighbor, a cabbage, and the two vegetables discover that they have much in common. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Captain Kale and the Super Foods** by Amy Roth (Happy House Press, 2013) Every kid would love to be a Superhero! Well, they can... right in their own homes by becoming friends with The Superfoods and becoming a Superkid! This story is about a boy who is very unhealthy and one night he witnesses Captain Kale and the Superfoods battling with Sneaky Snack Cake and all the junk food in his pantry. They are in a battle over his health! He learns how important it is to eat healthy nutritious fruits and vegetables and how much it improves his health. Now he is strong and well and is telling all his friends how to become a Superkid! (Grades 1-5)

**Cool Leaf Lettuce From Garden to Table: How to Plant, Grow and Prepare Lettuce** by Katherine Hengel (ABDO Pub., 2012) With this title kids not only learn how to grow their own leaf lettuce in containers, but how to prepare it to eat too! Step-by-step planting, care and harvesting tips give the beginning gardener a good basic understanding of the growing process. Delicious recipes from lettuce sushi rolls to a berry vinaigrette salad, with step-by-step photos bring their homegrown vegetable to the table to share with others! (Grades 3-6) **MH**

**The Giant Cabbage** by Cherie Stihler, illustrated by Jeremiah Trammell (Little Bigfoot, 2003) Moose discovers a very big cabbage in his garden that could win first prize at the Alaska State Fair. But there's a problem--it's so huge he can't lift it! An old Russian folktale inspired The Giant Cabbage, but this contemporary version showcases Alaska with vivid illustrations, adorable animal friends, and verbal twists and turns. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**Green Power: Leaf and Flower Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 2001) Describes the history, growing requirements, uses, and food value of various

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leafy green vegetables and vegetable flowers, including cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-7) **MH**

**Grow Your Own Lettuce** by Helen Lanz (Sea to Sea Publications, 2012) It's simple to grow your own lettuce! In this book find out what equipment you will need, how to grow a healthy plant, and about the science in growing plants. You can also find useful tips, nutrition facts and a recipe. (Grades 3-6) **MH**

\***Lettuce Introduce You: Poems About Food** by Laura Purdie Salas (Capstone Press, 2009) Striking photos pair with well-crafted wordplay in these themed introductions to rhyme and rhythm. Poems in various forms celebrate everything from sitting in class to sailing through space, including salad, corn, carrots & Brussels sprouts. (Grades K-2) **MH**

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# Spinach

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**Green Power: Leaf and Flower Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 2001) Describes the history, growing requirements, uses, and food value of various leafy green vegetables and vegetable flowers, including cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Includes recipes. (Grades 5-7) **MH**

\***Oliver's Vegetables** by Vivian French (Hodder Children's Books, 1995) Do you like chips? Oliver does, in fact, he won't eat anything else - until he plays a game with his grandpa. Whatever vegetable Oliver finds in the garden, he must eat. On Monday, he pulls up carrots, on Tuesday, it is spinach. This is an excellent book for parents with slightly fussy children and it introduces the days of the week. (Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Sylvia's Spinach** by Katherine Pryor (Publishers Group West, 2012) Sylvia Spivens hates spinach. But one day Sylvia's teacher gives her a packet of spinach seeds to plant for a school garden. Overcoming her reluctance and enduring a long wait, Sylvia discovers the joy of growing food from the ground up and finds the pleasure of tasting something new. Parents identify with the challenge of feeding healthy food to a picky eater, and educators understand the magic and rewards of school gardens. Best of all, young readers celebrate Sylvia's strong will, curiosity, and, maybe, her love of spinach. (Pre-K-3) **MH**

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# Squash (Winter)

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**Carlos and the Squash Plant** by Jan Romero Stevens (Luna Rising, 1999) Having ignored his mother's warnings about what will happen if he doesn't bathe after working on his family's New Mexican farm, Carlos awakens one morning to find a squash growing right out of his ear. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Sophie's Squash** by Pat Zietlow Miller (Schwartz & Wade, 2013) On a trip to the farmers' market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents' gentle warnings that Bernice will begin to rot. As winter nears, Sophie does start to notice changes.... (Grades Pre-K - 2)

**Squash Pie** by Wilson Gage (Greenwillow Books, 1976) Time after time the farmer plants squash for his favorite pie, only to have someone steal every crop. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

**Squashed** by Joan Bauer (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001) As a sixteen-year-old pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own. (Grades 7-9) **MH**

\***The Surprise Garden** by Zoe Hall (Blue Sky Press, 1998) We're planting the seeds for a surprise garden. Can you guess what we will grow? Trace the progress of three small children as they loosen the soil, poke seeds in one by one, water the garden, and watch the small green shoots grow. Surprise! The gardeners find carrots and radishes, broccoli and cauliflower, peas, beans, squash, and even a sunflower. When it's harvest time, the children have a garden party to eat all their delicious produce. (Grades Pre-K-1) **MH**

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# Strawberries

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**The First Strawberries** by Joseph Bruchac (Puffin Books, 1998) This legend explains the origins of strawberries, grown by the sun to help the first man and woman patch a quarrel. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear** by Don Wood (Child's Play; Hardcover, 1997) The Little Mouse and the Big Hungry Bear are known and loved by millions of children around the world. Little Mouse loves strawberries, but so does the

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bear... How will Little Mouse stop the bear from eating his freshly picked, red, ripe strawberry. (Grades Pre-K-1)

**Strawberry Girl** by Lois Lenski (HarperCollins, 2005) The land was theirs, but so were its hardships. Strawberries – big, ripe, and juicy. Ten-year-old Birdie Boyer can hardly wait to start picking them. But her family has just moved to the Florida backwoods, and they haven't even begun their planting. Making the new farm prosper is not easy. There is heat to suffer through, and droughts, and cold snaps. And, perhaps most worrisome of all for the Boyers, there are rowdy neighbors, just itching to start a feud. (Grades 3-7)

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## Sweet Potatoes

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**The Gigantic Sweet Potato** by Dianne De las Casas (Pelican Publishing, 2010) This children's picture book is a cumulative story adapted from the Russian folktale The Giant Turnip. In this version, Ma Farmer has a hankering for some sweet potato pie. But the sweet potato she has planted is too big to pull up, even with the help of just about every animal on the farm, from Pa Farmer, to Bessie Cow, to Ralphie the Dog, to Kittie Cat. Can Lily Mouse be the one to solve the problem? A page of fun facts and a sweet potato pie recipe are included. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**Sweet Potato Pie** by Kathleen Lindsey (Lee & Low Books, 2008) Sadie, an eight-year-old African-American girl, lives on a farm during the early 1900s. Drought has produced the worst crops ever, but the rain arrives just in time to save the sweet potatoes. When Papa receives a letter from the bank threatening to take the farm unless a loan is repaid, Mama has an idea: the family will make sweet potato pies and sell them at the Harvest Celebration in town. Everyone pitches in to get the wagon ready, gather the ingredients, and do the baking. At the fair, Mama's pies sell like hot cakes, guaranteeing a happy ending. (Grades 1-3) **MH**

**\*Tops & Bottoms** by Janet Stevens (Harcourt Children's Books, 1995) Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots in American slave tales, *Tops & Bottoms* celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

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# Tomatoes

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**The Biography of Tomatoes (How Did That Get Here?)** by Adrianna Morganelli (Crabtree Pub. Co., 2007) Fruit or vegetable? Poisonous or 'love apple'? A staple of South America, the tomato made its way to Europe through conquest and trade where it was considered poisonous for hundreds of years. Eventually disproved, tomatoes became one of the world's most popular vegetables. Interesting facts include the tomato's connection to werewolves and why today's commercial farm-grown tomato is seven times less nutritious than 50 years ago. (Grades 3-8)

**Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow A Rainbow Garden** by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994) An introduction to organic gardening which explains how to grow a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables in unexpected colors, outlining simple guidelines for planning, planting, caring for, and troubleshooting a rainbow garden. Also includes some special recipes. (Grades 4-6) **MH**

**Chicks and Salsa** by Aaron Reynolds (Bloomsbury USA Children's, 2007) What happens at Nuthatcher Farm when the chickens get tired of the same old chicken feed? The rooster hatches a plan! With a pinch of genius, a dash of resourcefulness, and a little pilfering from the farmer's garden, the chickens whip up a scrumptious snack of chips and salsa. (Grades K-3) **MH**

**I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato** by Lauren Child (Orchard Books, 2001) Lola is a fussy eater. A very fussy eater. She won't eat her carrots (until her brother Charlie reveals that they're orange twiglets from Jupiter). She won't eat her mashed potatoes (until Charlie explains that they're cloud fluff from the pointiest peak of Mount Fuji). There are many things Lola won't eat, including - and especially - tomatoes. Or will she? Two endearing siblings star in a witty story about the triumph of imagination over proclivity. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Little Yellow Pear Tomatoes** by Demian Yumei (Illumination Arts Publishing Company, 2005) This exquisite offering examines the universal circle of life through the innocent eyes of a young girl, who marvels at all the energy and collaboration it takes to grow her yellow pear tomatoes. She sees that everyone and everything brings something essential to the little fruits she loves so much. (Grades Pre-K-3)

**Oh No, Monster Tomato!** by Jim Helmore (Egmont UK; Nov edition 2011) In the dark town of Grislygust a competition is under way—the Great Grislygust Grow-off. Marvin plans to grow the tastiest tomatoes in town, but he is a small boy, and his beastly brother Boris and his poisonous sister Prunella tease him that his tomatoes will be tiny too! With a little bit of magic and a special song, his plant begins to grow and grown until . . . oh no, monster tomato! What can Marvin do to stop his wayward plant? Is there any hope of him winning now? Complete with real songs to sing aloud, this slapstick romp of a story comes to life with comic, gothic, hyper-real illustrations combined with gigantic fold-outs for interactive appeal. (Grades Pre-K-2)

**\*Who Grew My Soup?** by Tom Darbyshire (Publications International, 2009) Who Grew My Soup? tells the story of young Phineas Quinn and his questions about the vegetable soup his

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mom serves for lunch. Phin declares he won't slurp a single spoonful until he knows: "Who grew these carrots? Who grew these tomatoes? These beans and this barley? This corn? These potatoes? Who sprouted this spinach? Who planted these peas? And who picked this celery? Tell me now, please?" (Grades K-3)

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## Turnips (See Root Vegetables)

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## Zucchini

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\* **Busy in the Garden** by George Shannon (Greenwillow Books, 2006) A collection of short poems and riddles about planting seeds, watching garden vegetables dance, and growing jack-o-lanterns. Includes poems about zucchini, carrots, corn & pumpkin. Selected poems could be used for specific veggie units. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**Carlos and the Squash Plant** by Jan Romero Stevens (Luna Rising, 1999) Having ignored his mother's warnings about what will happen if he doesn't bathe after working on his family's New Mexican farm, Carlos awakens one morning to find a squash growing right out of his ear. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

\* **Cool as a Cucumber, Hot as a Pepper: Fruit Vegetables (Plants We Eat)** by Meredith Sayles Hughes (Lerner Publications, 1998) Discusses the history and uses of plants that are normally thought of as vegetables but share some of the traits of fruits, such as tomatoes, avocados, squash, and peppers. Includes recipes. (Grades 3-6)

**The Giant Zucchini** by Catherine Siracusa (Hyperion (Juv), 1993) Eager to bag a blue ribbon at the county fair, pals Edgar Mouse and Robert Squirrel plant a huge zucchini seed in their garden in hopes of producing a correspondingly enormous vegetable. The fruit of their labors, alas, is only a "teeny zucchini"—though this wee wonder demonstrates unique abilities. Edgar and Robert, confident of success with their exceptional entry, hadn't anticipated Humphrey Hog, a sneaky swine who will go to any lengths to ensure his zucchini's victory. Siracusa imbues her droll tale with a touch of magic and a gentle charm. Illustrations in a rainbow of effulgent greens, yellows, oranges and magenta bring an especially endearing quality to this inventive scenario. The sight of various animals driving gargantuan cabbages, carrots et al. to the fair is laugh-out-loud funny; such comical touches in both text and pictures make this easy reader indeed a large-scale achievement. (Grades K-3)

\* **I Heard It From Alice Zucchini: Poems About the Garden** by Juanita Havill (Chronicle Books, 2006) From the still chill of a winter night to the ra-ta-ta, ra-ta-ta, ra-ta-ta-too of a lively vegetable stew, these twenty whimsical poems celebrate the joys of a garden from start to finish. /

**MH:** Available through Mid-Hudson Library System \*Titles which, while listed under a specific veggie, can also be considered general in content.

Join in the Pea Pod Chant, wander through the Rhubarb Forest, dance with the Dainty Doily Dill Weed, gossip with Alice Zucchini, and hold your breath on the pumpkin's enchanted evening. (Grades Pre-K-3) **MH**

**The Little Squash Seed** by Gayla Seale (Overmountain Press, 2002) How is it that a dull, dried-up little seed can produce a brightly colored nutritious vegetable? Miraculous things do happen when a seed is planted in the dirt and cared for by an attentive gardener. Kids can put on their garden gloves, grab their tools, and join the little squash seed, the gardener, and his grandchildren for a season of planting, changing, and growing. (Grades K-2)