

## Gardening Booklist

*Recommended books for children, highlighting flora and gardening concepts*

### **ALL OF ME IS NATURE: EXPLORING MY FIVE SENSES OUTSIDE**

BY ASHLEY RENEE JEFFERSON, ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTIANA VELLUCCI

LITTLE FEMINIST PRESS, 2023

ISBN: 9798986704920

*PreK - Grade 1*

Using full-color photographs of real children exploring the outside world through their five senses, this book offers inspiration for readers' next adventure.

### **ALL THAT GROWS**

BY JACK WONG

GROUNDWOOD PRESS, 2024

ISBN: 9781773068121

*PreK - Grade 2*

On walks around the neighborhood with his sister, a young boy discovers nature all around him and learns to love plants and gardening.



### **BIG TREE**

BY BRIAN SELZNICK

SCHOLASTIC PRESS, 2023

ISBN: 9781338180633

*Grade 2 and up*

An epic story of seeds trying to find a safe place to grow, told by the seeds themselves.

### **BUTTERFLY PARK**

BY ELLY MACKAY

RUNNING PRESS KIDS, 2015

ISBN: 9780762453399

*PreK - Grade 2*

When a little girl moves to a new town, she finds a place called Butterfly Park. But when she opens the gate, there are no butterflies. Determined to lure the butterflies in, the girl inspires her entire town to help her plant a butterfly-friendly garden, and soon the butterflies and the girl feel right at home.

### **CELIA PLANTED A GARDEN: THE STORY OF CELIA THAXTER AND HER ISLAND GARDEN**

BY PHYLLIS ROOT AND GARY D. SCHMIDT, ILLUSTRATED BY MELISSA SWEET

CANDLEWICK, 2022

ISBN: 9781536204292

*Grades 2 - 5*

Incorporating journal excerpts and snippets of her poetry, this picture book biography of writer, painter, and gardener Celia Thaxter imparts her deep dedication to the gardens she created on the rocky Isles of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine.

**FEARLESS WORLD TRAVELER: ADVENTURES OF MARIANNE NORTH, BOTANICAL ARTIST**

BY LAURIE LAWLOR, ILLUSTRATED BY BECCA STADTLANDER

HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2021

ISBN: 9780823439591

*Grades 2 - 5*

Picture book biography about Marianne North, a woman who traveled the world in the nineteenth century, painting the flora and fauna unique to various regions. Her scientific accuracy even impressed Charles Darwin! Her artwork remains on display at the Royal Botanic Gardens in London.

**FLORETTE**

BY ANNA WALKER

CLARION BOOKS, 2018

ISBN: 9780544876835

*PreK - Grade 2*



Mae misses her large garden when she moves to the city with her parents. After taking a walk around her new neighborhood, she figures out how to grow plants in her courtyard. This picture book highlights that urban gardens are not only a possibility, but easy to create.

**FLOWER POWER: THE MAGIC OF NATURE'S HEALERS**

BY CHRISTINE PAXMANN, ILLUSTRATED BY OLAF HAJEK

PRESTEL, 2020

ISBN: 9783791373997

*K and up*

Discover the secrets of seventeen flowers and plants through whimsical and captivating illustrations and thoughtfully detailed narrative. Accompanying each painting is engaging text that explores various cultural and medicinal aspects of the flower as well as its importance to artists, writers, and healers. This is a unique informational picture book that will delight adults with the stories and children with the artwork.

**FUNGI GROW**

BY MARIA GIANFERRARI, ILLUSTRATED BY DIANA SUDYKA

BEACH LANE BOOKS, 2023

ISBN: 9781665903653

*Grades 1 – 5*

Beautifully illustrated informational book about the life cycle of all kinds of fungi. It celebrates the beauty as well as warns that many types are poisonous. Additional information in the back adds more facts as well as additional resources for those wanting to further explore.

**GARDEN WALK**

BY VIRGINIA BRIMHALL SNOW

GIBBS SMITH, 2023

ISBN: 9781423662525

*PreK*



A simple story that allows readers to wander through Grammy's garden and surrounding woods to encounter numerous varieties of flowers, vegetables, fruits, trees, and animals. Companion books include *Fall Walk*, *Winter Walk*, *Spring Walk*, and *Summer Walk*.

**HARLEM GROWN: HOW ONE BIG IDEA TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD**

BY TONY HILLERY, ILLUSTRATED BY JESSIE HARTLAND  
SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, 2020  
ISBN: 9781534402317  
*PreK - Grade 3*

The inspiring story of a man who invites children in the neighborhood to turn an empty lot into a beautiful, functioning garden that feeds the neighborhood. Includes back matter on how to start a garden anywhere.  
*Also available in Spanish*



**HERE ARE THE SEEDS**

BY JANAY BROWN-WOOD, ILLUSTRATED BY OLIVIA AMOAH  
KIDS CAN PRESS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781525308307  
*PreK - K*

Two young gardeners wait for their seeds to grow as they encounter mishaps along the way and learn what it takes to make plants thrive.

**HOW TO SAY HELLO TO A WORM: A FIRST GUIDE TO OUTSIDE**

BY KARI PERCIVAL  
RISE X PENGUIN WORKSHOP, 2022  
ISBN: 9780593226797  
*PreK - K*

Young gardeners appreciate the wonders of caring for and playing in a garden filled with fruits, vegetables, and worms.

**IN OUR GARDEN**

BY PAT ZIETLOW MILLER, ILLUSTRATED BY MELISSA CROWTON  
G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781984812100  
*PreK - Grade 2*

An elementary school class plants a rooftop garden at their school and learns how to be patient as they wait for their vegetables to grow.

**JAYDEN'S IMPOSSIBLE GARDEN**

BY MÉLINA MANGAL, ILLUSTRATED BY KEN DALEY  
FREE SPIRIT, 2021  
ISBN: 9781631985904  
*PreK - Grade 3*

Jayden and his neighbor Mr. Curtis prove the naysayers wrong with their successful urban garden. Back matter includes information on plants, wildlife, and garden crafts.

**LET'S GET GARDENING**

BY DK CHILDREN, ILLUSTRATED EDITION  
DORLING KINDERSLEY, 2019  
ISBN: 9781465485496  
*Pre-K – Grade 3*



This beginning gardening book, packed with pictures and step-by-step instructions, allows children to grow all kinds of plants whether they have a big backyard or just a windowsill. It also includes directions on how to create creature-friendly spaces within the garden.

**MAKER COMICS: GROW A GARDEN!**

BY ALEXIS FREDERICK-FROST

FIRST SECOND, 2020

ISBN: 9781250152138

*Grades 4 - 7*



A group of garden gnomes learn gardening basics in this comic adventure and do-it-yourself guide.

**MILLIE FLEUR'S POISON GARDEN**

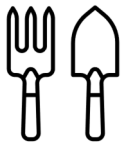
BY CHRISTY MANDIN

ORCHARD BOOKS, 2024

ISBN: 9781339023274

*K – Grade 3*

The plants that Millie likes in her garden look different from the plants that others in her neighborhood enjoy. All gardens are beautiful, however, and need tending to and care. Based on the author's visit to a garden full of poisonous plants at a castle in the United Kingdom.



**MISS MACDONALD HAS A FARM**

BY KALEE GWARJANSKI, ILLUSTRATED BY ELIZABET VUKOVIĆ

DOUBLEDAY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, 2024

ISBN: 9780593568163

*PreK - Grade 2*

In this updated spin of the classic children's song, Miss MacDonald shows off her vegetable garden and teaches children about tending to a home garden.

**MNOOMIN MAAN'GOWING/ THE GIFT OF MNOOMIN**

BY BRITTANY LUBY, ILLUSTRATED BY MANGESHIG PAWIS-STECKLEY

GROUNDWOOD BOOKS, 2023

ISBN: 9781773068466

*Grades 1 - 4*

In this bilingual book, written in Anishinaabemowin and English, a child marvels at the mnoomin seed and the life it sustains.

**MY DELICIOUS GARDEN**

BY ANNE-MARIE FORTIN, ILLUSTRATED BY JULIEN CASTANIÉ, TRANSLATED BY

HEATHER CAMLOT

OWLKIDS BOOKS, 2022

ISBN: 9781771474689

*Grades 1 - 3*



This story follows a young gardener through the four seasons and all the stages of a garden from planning, planting, growing, and harvesting to preparing the soil for the next garden.

**THE NATURE JOURNAL: A BACKYARD ADVENTURE**

BY SAVANNAH ALLEN

VIKING, 2023

ISBN: 9780593524930

*Birth - PreK*

A young child enjoys inspecting his backyard for rocks, twigs, leaves, feathers, and other treasures. With his dad's help, he creates a scrapbook of his findings.



**NO-DIG CHILDREN'S GARDENING BOOK: EASY AND FUN FAMILY GARDENING**

BY CHARLES DOWDING, ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTYNA LITTEN

WELBECK CHILDREN'S, 2023

ISBN: 9781783129195

*Grades 2 - 5*

Filled with photographs and step-by-step instructions for planting and harvesting, activities are geared towards gardening as a family and include ideas for those children who are autistic or have ADHD. It also has directions for a "sensory garden," growing wildflowers, and attracting wildlife.

**PATTERNS IN THE GARDEN**

BY GENEVIEVE NILSEN

JUMP! INC., 2021

ISBN: 9781645277620

*PreK - Grade 1*

A beginning nonfiction book for kids who love photos! This book has only 31 words and explains patterns in nature in a simple, visually pleasing way. Also available in Spanish as *Patrones en el jardín*.

**ROOTING FOR PLANTS: THE UNSTOPPABLE CHARLES S. PARKER, BLACK BOTANIST AND COLLECTOR**

BY JANICE N. HARRINGTON, ILLUSTRATED BY THEODORE TAYLOR III

CALKINS CREEK, 2023

ISBN: 9781662680199

*Grades 1 - 4*

A fascinating picture book biography of a pioneering Black scientist, Charles S. Parker, whose passion for plants and fungi led to new discoveries and inspired a new generation of scientists.

**SOMETHING, SOMEDAY**

BY AMANDA GORMAN, ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

VIKING BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, 2023

ISBN: 9780593203255

*PreK - Grade 3*

A poetic ode to the power of community to solve problems: to see trash, clean it up, and plant a raised bed garden for everyone to enjoy.

**THANK A FARMER**

BY MARIA GIANFERRARI, ILLUSTRATED BY MONICA MIKAI

NORTON YOUNG READERS, 2023

ISBN: 9781324015796

*K - Grade 3*



Infused with jubilation and warmth, this colorfully illustrated and luminous nonfiction picture book celebrates the people and the work that put food on our tables. Endnotes offer more about various farming methods, suggestions for further reading, and websites.

**UNCLE JOHN'S CITY GARDEN**

BY BERNETTE G. FORD, ILLUSTRATED BY FRANK MORRISON  
HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2022  
ISBN: 9780823447862  
*K - Grade 3*

A young girl, visiting the city from her home in the suburbs, helps transform an empty lot in a housing project into an enchanting space where vegetables grow and family gathers. Based on the life of the author. Includes an author's note and a recipe for the dish succotash.



**WHAT WILL GROW?**

BY JENNIFER WARD, ILLUSTRATED BY SUSIE GHAREMANI  
BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2017  
9781681190303  
*PreK - K*

Perfect read aloud for young readers featuring rhyming text and gatefolds that add excitement to the answer to the question, "What will grow?" Back matter includes how-to instructions for planting the 12 seeds mentioned.

**WHAT'S INSIDE A FLOWER?: AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT SCIENCE AND NATURE**

BY RACHEL IGNOTOFSKY  
CROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, 2021  
ISBN: 9780593176474  
*PreK - Grade 3*

Beautiful, retro-style illustrations describe the inner workings of flowers and plants for young readers.

**WILDFLOWER**

BY MELANIE BROWN, ILLUSTRATED BY SARA GILLINGHAM  
GREYSTONE KIDS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781771649063  
*PreK - Grade 2*



A brightly illustrated picture book about a daisy that is told she's "just a weed," and embarks on a journey to find her own place in the garden. Includes a simplified gardener's glossary and author's note about the benefits of weeds.

**WINTERGARDEN**

BY JANET FOX, ILLUSTRATED BY JASU HU  
NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2023  
ISBN: 9780823451012  
*PreK - Grade 3*

With a few seeds, a good windowsill, and loving care, a young girl and her mom create a thriving herb garden during the dead of winter in their city apartment. Includes instructions for creating an indoor garden.



**YASMIN THE GARDENER**

BY SAADIA FARUQI, ILLUSTRATED BY HATEM ALY

CAPSTONE, 2020

ISBN: 9781515846413

*K - Grade 2*

When Yasmin's flower seedlings start to wilt, she uses her problem-solving skills to find a solution to help her plants.

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