



Books for the Classroom

These are a few of our favorite children's books on food and farming. Many are available from school libraries, Multnomah County Public Library, and the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom lending library.

How Did That Get in my Lunchbox? The Story of Food by Chris Butterworth, Candlewick Press, 2011

Age: K-5th

From planting wheat to mixing dough, climbing trees to machine-squeezing fruit, picking cocoa pods to stirring a vat of melted bliss, here is a clear, engaging look at the steps involved in producing some common foods.

Dirt: The Scoop on Soil by Natalie M. Roshinsky, Capstone, 2002

Age: K-4th

Sand and silt, erosion and humus. Vivid illustrations and clear, fact-filled text explore the amazing science of soil.

To Market, To Market by Nikki McClure, Abrams, 2011

Age: K-4th

As a young boy and his mother shop for apples and cheese, smoked salmon, and green kale, the author shows how each item is grown or made and introduces the farmers and artisans who work so hard to fill tables and tummies.

Yucky Worms by Vivian French, Candlewick Press, 2010

Age: K-4th

Kids are invited to find out where worms live, see how they move, and understand why gardeners consider them friends with the help of this humorous and informative look at an unappreciated — and fascinating — creature.

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1995

Age: K-5th

Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story.

The Beautiful Bee Book by Sue Unstead, Andromeda Oxford, Limited, 2007

Age: K-5th

With beautiful illustrations, simple accessible text and fun mechanisms to life, turn and pull, the books in this series will open children's eyes to the beauty of the insect kingdom.

Carrots Grow Underground; Lettuce Grows on the Ground; Blueberries Grow on a Bush; Apples Grow on a Tree all by Mari C. Schuh, Capstone, 2011

Age: K-2nd

Simple text and photographs show how different foods grow.

Before We Eat: From Farm to Table by Pat Brisson, Tillbury House Publishers, 2014

Age: K-4th

Before we eat, many people must work very hard--planting grain, catching fish, tending animals, and filling crates.

The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids by Whitney Cohen and John Fisher, Timber Press, 2012

Age: K-12th

This inspiring guide offers simple, practical advice as it takes you step-by-step through more than 100 engaging, family-friendly garden activities.



Additional Resources for Educators

Life Lab – <http://www.lifelab.org/for-educators/>

Life Lab is an excellent resource for lessons, products, curricula, and workshops on farm and garden education. A great resource for school gardens! Check out <http://www.lifelab.org/content-standards/> for tips on supporting NGSS and Common Core with your garden lessons.

Edible Schoolyard – <http://edibleschoolyard.org/resources-tools>

Hundreds of lesson plans on food and gardening submitted by educators around the country, organized in a handy searchable database.

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation– <http://oregonaitc.org/resources/>

Oregon-focused lesson plans, grants, resources, and a free lending library for books and activity kits for Oregon teachers.

Eat Think Grow – <http://eatthinkgrow.org/>

Lessons for the school garden, organized by grade and season, written for use in the Pacific Northwest.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute - <http://learnforests.org/>

Lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and publications (including some really neat posters) about Oregon forests. Check out their short “Forest Fact Break” videos to help enhance your classroom lessons.

Spanish-English Garden Dictionary - <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8423.pdf>

This publication from University of California Master Gardeners has all the vocabulary you’ll need for a bilingual lesson in the garden.

Food Hero - <http://www.foodhero.org/>

Healthy and kid-friendly recipes, in both English and Spanish, featuring Oregon produce. Created by Oregon State University Extension Service.

Kids Gardening – www.kidsgardening.org

Gardening tips, lesson plans, garden equipment, and more.