

Ready, Set, Grow!

A Kid's Guide to Gardening

Written and illustrated by
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GOOD YEAR BOOKS

3rd Edition



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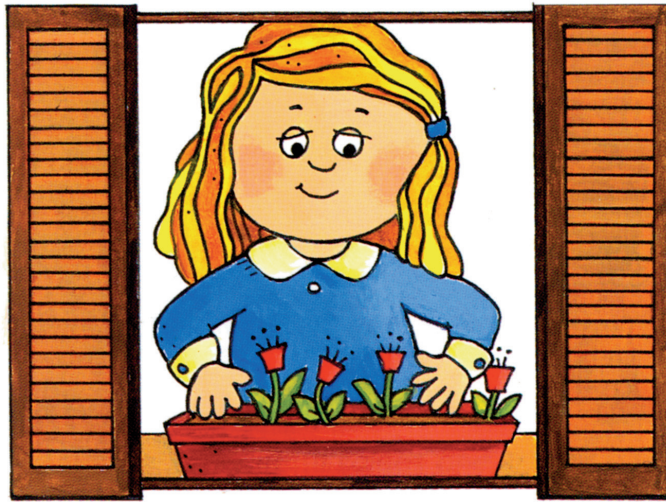
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AN INTRODUCTION FOR KIDS



Would you like to grow your own pumpkins, shuck your own corn, or make a salad using your own home-grown tomatoes? YOU can!

You can grow all kinds of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, and you can grow them almost anywhere. Whether you live in the country or in the city—whether you have a big backyard or only room enough for a window box—**YOU** can be a gardener!



By following **Ready, Set, Grow!**, you will learn how a seed grows; what tools to use for both indoor and outdoor gardening; how to prepare seedbeds; and, most of all, how to get started!

In this book you will also discover how to recycle all kinds of containers—from milk cartons to paper cups—turning them into miniature gardens.

What kind
of garden
does a
baker grow?
A “flour”
garden.



You will be amazed at how easy it is to grow vegetable-top gardens and water gardens. You will learn how to create a cactus garden, make a terrarium, and keep a garden journal.

Invite your friends to participate in a sunflower-growing contest to see who can grow the tallest sunflower! You can prepare delicious-tasting recipes from your very own home-grown crops. You can even turn a gourd into a musical instrument and create a scary-looking Jack-o'-Lantern without ever carving a pumpkin. Best of all, you will discover how much fun gardening can be.



S A F E T Y T I P S

- Trying some of the plant activities and recipes in this book may require a little extra help from an adult. If so, you will find an “adult helper” symbol on that page.
- Working with dirt can be fun, but it can also be a “dirty” job, so it is a good idea to wear an old shirt and a pair of jeans.
- When using a shovel to dig in a garden, always wear hard-soled shoes. NEVER jump with both feet onto a shovel. If the soil is too hard, ask an adult to help turn over the soil.
- Be sure to clean your tools with warm water after you use them. Always dry your tools so that any metal will not rust. Carry sharp tools carefully and keep them stored away from a little brother or sister.
- Remember: running with sharp garden tools can be dangerous!



AN INTRODUCTION FOR ADULT HELPERS

Ready, Set, Grow! *A Kid's Guide to Gardening* offers an entertaining and informative way to introduce children to the wonders of gardening. This book is filled with more than 30 "how-to" tips on growing a variety of plants, from creating a carrot-top garden to growing a beanstalk. Easy and fun-to-prepare recipes are also included. These provide children an opportunity to turn the fruits of their labor into tasty and healthful salads and snacks. "Fun from the Garden" offers children further enjoyable and easy activities and crafts using plants that they have grown themselves.



What is
green and
has leaves
and a
suitcase?
A houseplant
going on
vacation.



Each planting page features several sections: “Did You Know?” presents thought-provoking facts that help build a child’s knowledge of science. “Where, When, or Who?” sections offer interesting notes about geography and/or history. “Brain Teasers” include garden-inspired word problems that are fun to solve. “Try This” provides additional activities, which are designed to encourage a child to actively participate in learning by doing.

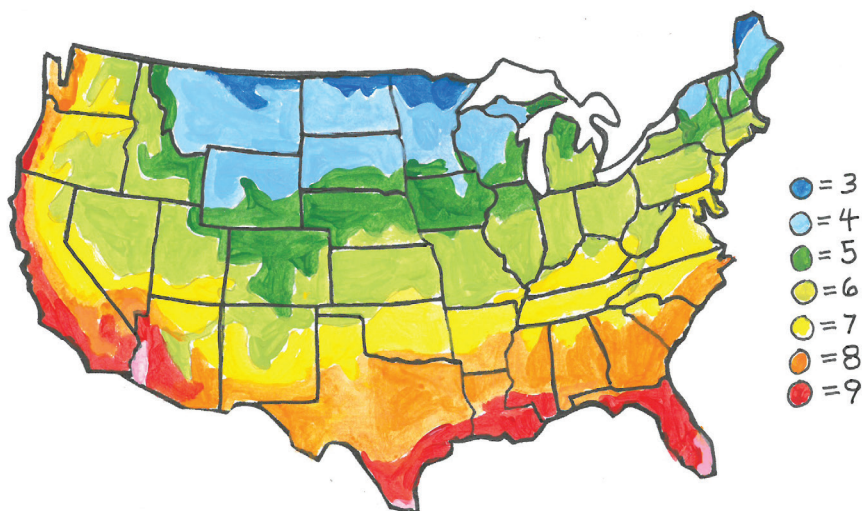
The “Glossary Term” on each planting page introduces an important garden-related word. The “Read On” lists offer titles of books about particular vegetables, fruits, or flowers. These books help children read and learn more about planting and gardens.



Safety is an important part of any activity. Each planting page, craft, or recipe that may require an adult helper is easy for you and a child to identify. Look for the “Adult Helper” symbol throughout the book. This symbol lets you know that a particular activity may need your watchful eye, as you and the child garden together.

Remember, for the best possible outcome for your garden always wait until the last frost before planting. To decide on the best time for you to begin your garden, refer to the U.S. Planting Zone map below. Locate your home state and check the color and zone number. On average, this corresponds to the best month to begin planting.

- Zone 3 = May
- Zone 4 = May
- Zone 5 = April
- Zone 6 = April
- Zone 7 = April
- Zone 8 = March
- Zone 9 = February



HOW DOES A SEED GROW?

When you take a bite of a watermelon, have you ever noticed the black seeds inside? How about the seeds in the center of an apple, or the hard seeds in an orange? Have you ever wondered how a seed grows and turns into a plant?

A seed is very much like an egg. Both are filled with protein (food) and a small embryo (in this case, a plant). If the seed is given sunlight, water, air, and lots of care, it will sprout into a seedling.

