

March-April, 2018

MUCH TO DO ABOUT GARDENING WITH YOUTH

Dig, Plant and Grow these youth gardening resources – books, internet websites, models for youth gardens, crafts and grants. OH MY!

Resources and Books on Youth Gardening

“Grandma’s Bag of Tricks, Toad Cottages and Shooting Stars,” by Sharon Lovejoy. Workman Publishing, 2009. Book is chock full of hands-on activities (130 activities that connect grandparents and grandchildren through Nature – in the kitchen, garden and art projects) and allows youth to shine in the garden and kitchen. Includes instructions for safe prep to bake and cook from garden’s bounty.

“Garden Classroom: Hands-On Activities in Math, Science, Literacy and Art,” by Cathy James. Roost Books, Boston, 2015. Great resource especially for Homeschoolers and others who infuse curriculum links into Youth Gardening Programs. See tips on organization of garden classroom, nurturing young gardeners, vocabulary lists, garden basics, pollinators, planting seeds, hands-on gardening activities, a garden journal, and more. See Nurture Store’s Facebook page also for community of like-minded parents and educators at www.facebook.com/naturestore.

“In the Children’s Garden,” by Carole Lexa Schaefer, Henry Holt & Co., 1994.

“Seedfolks,” by Paul Fleischman, Gardens for All, Inc., 1983. About a Community Garden. Today more Community Gardens infuse a children’s garden into the program.

“The Youth Gardening Book,” by Lynn Olcone, Gardens for All, Inc., 1983. For school and community gardens.

“Digging Deeper: Integrating Youth Gardens into Schools and Communities,” by Joseph Kiefer, Food Works, 1998. Ideas, tips, program plan, fundraising, design and more.

“My First Gardening Book: 35 Easy and Fun Projects for Budding Gardeners,” by Susan Akass, CICO Kids, 2016. Book offers interactive projects ranging from

quick, easy crafts to long-term projects aimed at children ages seven years and up.

“Worms Eat My Garbage: How to Set Up and Maintain a Worm Composting System,” 3rd ed., by the late Mary Appelhof and Joanne Olszewski. A timeless resource for vermicomposting that will teach new generations of gardeners to put worms to work, turning food scraps into fertile worm manure.

From Youthlitreviews.com, Google books about Youth Gardening and find many new lists of books for all ages.

See Picture books about gardening for wee ones with reviews and colored pictures. The other sections at website for you to explore include:

- Community Gardening with Kids from Minneapolis, MN
- KidsGardening.org
- Educator Resources
- Grants with tips
- Gardening Toolbox
- Join the Community Resources

Until next thyme, enjoy coaching and guiding youth in the garden. Email me at: lavenderlady@comcast.net

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