

# Gardening Books for the Classroom

**Purpose:** Read common text to establish a foundation of gardening knowledge, how a garden can enrich our lives, and the importance of sustainable agriculture.

**Get Growing:** This non-fiction books deals with keeping the earth's people supplied with food. It includes methods to conserve nutrients in the soil and other wise farming techniques. Below is a list of topics included in the text:

- Informational text features
- Information text reading strategies
- Earth's cycles
- Agriculture
- Natural resources
- Cutting down on waste
- Hunger
- Soil health
- Compost
- Fertilizers: Chemical versus organic
- Companion planting
- Crop rotation
- Monocropping
- Desertification
- Alternative farming
- Biological control of pests
- Pesticides
- DDT
- Integrated Pest Management
- Mulching
- And much, much more!

**Seedfolks**, a realistic fiction novella written by Paul Fleischman, is the ideal text to teach how a garden can unite a diverse group of people, how to garden in urban communities, and most importantly, the influence of gardening on the emotional lives of people.

**Out of the Dust** by Karen Hesse is an excellent text for integrating social studies and science into the ELA classroom. Set in the Dustbowl, it chronicles the life of a young girl who tragically loses her mother in a fire. Written in prose poetry, it is ideal for teaching ELA standards A1, A2, B2, and B4, while learning about the genre historical fiction. It also highlights the effects of poor farming techniques and the importance of sustainable agriculture.

**Environmental Text for Literature Circles:** Hoot and Flush by Carl Hiaasen, Island of the Aunts by Eva Ibbotson, and Lostman's River and The Missing Manatee by Cynthia DeFelice.