

# Community Gardening

*Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library*

## PICTURE BOOKS

**City Green** by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, 1994. Picture Book DISALVO-RYAN

A neighborhood comes together to create a community garden in the vacant lot where an old building has been torn down. The story is followed with an informational page on starting a community garden. (Grades 3-5)

**Compost Stew: an A to Z Recipe for the Earth** by Mary McKenna Siddals, 2010.

Picture Book SIDDALS

A book written in rhyming text that describes composting presented through each letter of the alphabet. The text is combined with fun, colorful collaged artwork to explain this important topic to younger children. (Grades 3-4)

**Our Community Garden** by Barbara Pollak, 2004.

Picture Book POLLAK

Audrey Aubergine lives in San Francisco where she and her friends tend plots in a community garden. The friends grow a variety of fruits and vegetables and then they enjoy the fruits of their labor when the community gathers for a feast. (Grades 3-4)

**The Curious Garden** by Peter Brown, 2009.

Picture Book BROWN

Young Liam lives in a drab, dreary city full of concrete but one day he finds a small plot of green and begins to take care of it. Urban renewal is front and center in this beautifully illustrated book. (Grades 3-5)

## FICTION BOOKS

**Grow: A Novel in Verse** by Juanita Havill, 2011.

Juvenile Fiction HAVILL

This novel written in verse form tells the story of a diverse neighborhood in Minneapolis changed by a community garden. Told from the perspective of 12 year-old Kate, each person has special job and place within the garden. The community faces the dilemma of having the garden razed to become a parking garage yet is able to persevere. (Grades 4-7)

**Marty McGuire Digs Worms!** by Kate Messner, 2012. Juvenile Fiction MESSNER  
Marty McGuire has a great idea for their special class assignment to save the earth. But waiting for worms to turn garbage into fertilizers isn't the fastest project leaving Marcy to worry about her friendships. (Grades 3-5)

**Seed Folks** by Paul Fleischman, 1997. Juvenile Fiction FLEISCHMAN  
Told from the perspectives of thirteen different characters of varying ages and backgrounds, Fleischman weaves a tale of how a community of strangers transforms a vacant inner-city lot into a beautiful and productive garden. (Grades 4-8).

## NONFICTION BOOKS

**First Garden: The White House Garden and How It Grew** by Robbin Gourley, 2011. j635 G716f  
A wonderful mix of the history of the White House gardens paired with the modern-day movement pioneered by Michelle Obama to reintroduce a community garden at the White House. Included are recipes issued by the White House and an informative resource page about the U.S. Presidents, the White House and gardening. (Grades 3-5)

**Growing a Garden City: How Farmers, First Graders, Counselors, Troubled Teens, Foodies, a Homeless Shelter Chef, Single Mothers, and More Are Transforming Themselves and Their Neighborhoods Through the Intersection of Local Agriculture and Community--and How You Can, Too** by Jeremy Smith, 2010. 635 S651g  
A profile of the town of Missoula, Montana as it takes on the tough American issues that surround the local food movement. The huge scope of many of the operations, from community gardens, to food kitchens and farm-to work programs, is made personal through the biographical sketches of those involved in the process. (Grades 6-8)

**It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School Garden** by George Ancona, 2013. j635 A542i  
This book follows a school as they design, plan, plant, tend and harvest a garden at an elementary school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photographs show the step-by-step process from beginning to end. (Grades 3-5)

**Potatoes on Rooftops: Farming in the City** by Hadley Dyer, 2012. j635.091732 D996p  
The perfect informational guide to understanding the importance of food production in relation to cities. Broken down into four easy to understand chapters, Hungry Cities, Plant a Seed, Green Your City and Your Green Thumb. (Grades 4-8)

**Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard** by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld, 2012. j577.16 Z85s  
An early introduction to food chains and food webs described through text and colorful illustrations. Thoroughly explains to children how even a small backyard garden is an ecosystem with an interconnection of animals and plants. (Grades 3-5)