The books on this list have been carefully chosen to support the first-grade *New Plants* science investigation. All of them were in print as of October 2005.

**Fiction**

Brown, Ruth. **TEN SEEDS.** Random House, 2001. 24p. ISBN 0375806970, $9.95. Plant life cycles and predator/prey relationships are depicted in a clever counting book. Ten sunflower seeds are planted and only one survives to complete the plant’s life cycle. This is an excellent depiction of interaction in nature and the need for multiple seeds to be planted.

Connor, Leslie. **MISS BRIDIE CHOSE A SHOVEL.** Houghton Mifflin, 2004. 32p. $16.00. ISBN 0618305645. Miss Bridie emigrates to America in 1856 and chooses to bring a shovel, which proves to be a useful tool throughout her life as a gardener.

Ehlert, Lois. **GROWING VEGETABLE SOUP.** Voyager, 1990. 32p. $6.00 ISBN 0152325808. With bold illustrations and long sentences over many pages, the author shows the complete growing process from seed to cooking pot. Smaller print identifies kinds of seeds, seedlings and plants.


Fleming, Denise. **IN THE TALL, TALL GRASS.** Holt, 1991. $15.95. ISBN 080501635X. A rhymed text presents a small child’s view of creatures found in the grass.

Stevens, Janet. **TOPS AND BOTTOMS.** Harcourt, 1995. 40p. $16.00. ISBN 0152928510. This trickster tale, adapted from African folklore, has a few twists, including the format of the book. Clever and hardworking hare and lazy bear go into a gardening venture. Hare gives Bear the choice “tops or bottoms” and then plants crops that grow just the opposite way. Bear decides that he wants the tops of the crops, so Hare plants carrots and potatoes. Bear decides that he wants the
bottoms of the crops, so Hare plants lettuce. Bear, realizing that he is being tricked, decides that he wants the tops and the bottoms, so Hare plants crops that produce in the middle. A great tale with a good message – hard work does pay off.

Stewart, Sarah. THE GARDENER. Farrar, 1997. 40p. $11.20. ISBN 0374325170. Through her letters to her farm family, Lydia Grace tells how she brightens her uncle’s bakery and his disposition with a little dirt and a suitcase full of seeds.

Wallace, Nancy. SEEDS! SEEDS! SEEDS! Marshall Cavendish, 2004. 44p. $16.95. ISBN 0761451595. Buddy receives a package from his grandfather that includes everything he needs to learn about seeds. He has four different seeds, materials to make a seed journal and cards that show the lifecycle of a seed. He also discovers that many of his favorite foods have seeds and that it is easy to plant seeds. The text combines scientific fact and a good story for young readers.

**Non-Fiction**

Adler, David A. A PICTURE BOOK OF GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER. Holiday House, 2000. 32p. $15.95 ISBN 0823414299. This biography portrays the many influences on the life of George Washington Carver: his early years, his education, and his thirst for knowledge. The book, with color drawings, also demonstrates the significance of Carver’s many contributions to science. *(Doing Science)*


Blackaby, Susan. BUDS AND BLOSSOMS. Picture Window Press. 2003. 24p. $16.95 ISBN 140480112X. Investigate how flowers work with bees and other insects to continue a life cycle and keep the world filled with plants. *(Investigation 1: Brassica Seeds – Flowers as a part of a plant’s life cycle)*


**Eclare, Melanie.** *A Harvest of Color.* Ragged Bears, 2002. 28p. $16.95. ISBN 1929927312. By planning a garden and growing five different vegetables, a group of children observe how these plants grow. Readers will learn how to take care of carrots, radishes, beans, zucchini and potatoes by reading the gardeners’ notes and observing the process in sequenced photographs. A recipe for soup is included. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds - Plant a garden; Investigation 3: Stems; Investigation (Potatoes are underground stems); 4: Bulbs and Roots – Eat roots)

**Fowler, Allan.** *Taking Root.* Children’s Press, 2000. 32p. $4.95. ISBN 0516270583. Through simple text and clear photographs, this fact-filled *Rookie Reader* describes the physical features and functions of plant roots. The concept of roots that grow in air is also covered. Text features: captioned photographs, index. (Investigation 4: Bulbs and roots)

**Ganeri, Anita.** *Plant Life Cycles.* Heinemann, 2005. 32p. $7.25. ISBN 1410913198. This profusely illustrated text shows that a plant’s life cycle is one of the patterns found in nature. Included are clear explanations of photosynthesis, parts of a plant, products of plants (flowers, seeds, nuts). Text features: table of contents, index, labels, glossary. (Investigation 1: Brassica Seeds – Plant life cycles)

**Glaser, Linda.** *Brilliant Bees.* Millbrook. 32p. $8.95. ISBN 0761319433. The importance of bees to the ecosystem is highlighted in this beautifully illustrated book that describes the pollination process, hive structure and social order, methods of communication, and life cycle of the honeybee. Young children will enjoy the simple and informative text. (Investigation 1: Brassica Seeds, Part 3: Pollination)


**Hickman, Pamela.** *Starting with Nature Plant Book.* Kids Can Press, 2000. 32p. $5.95. ISBN 1550748122. This text provides support for several of the *New Plants* investigations including: plant growth, pollination, growing new plants from old ones, investigating lawns, and how seeds are spread. Text features: Table of contents, labels, diagrams, index (Investigations 1-4)

**Holmes, Anita.** *If Grass Could Talk.* Benchmark Books, 2000. 32p. $17.00. ISBN 0761411119. Written in first person, grass describes its importance from providing food, building material, and camouflage to preventing erosion. Small
color photos show many different types of grass. Text features: glossary, index. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds)

Keller, Kristen. FROM WHEAT TO BREAD. First Facts Books, 2004. 24p. $15.95. ISBN 0736826386. Through easy text and colorful illustration, the author shows how wheat seeds are planted on a farm, cared for and then harvested. The wheat is then milled into flour and made into bread. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds, Part 3 – Wheat)

Landau, Elaine. WHEAT. Children’s Press, 1999. 48p. $6.95, ISBN 0516267922. How the many varieties of wheat are grown, classified, milled, and used for food is the focus of this text. A chapter on how science has been used to improve wheat growth and plant production is a nice addition. Text features: Table of contents, captioned photographs, glossary, index. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds, Part 3 – Wheat; Doing Science)

Levenson, George. BREAD COMES TO LIFE: A GARDEN OF WHEAT AND A LOAF TO EAT. Tricycle Press, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN 1582461147. “A baker makes his bread from scratch by sowing wheat in his backyard patch.” Follow the life cycle of wheat, from seed planted to grain ground into flour. The text is written in rhyme and illustrated with outstanding photographs. This is one of the best books we’ve seen! (Investigation 2: Grand and Grain Seeds, Part 3: Wheat)

Llewellyn, Claire. STARTING LIFE: TREE. NorthWord, 2004. 24p. $16.95. ISBN 155971879X. Through the “flip-book” format, young readers discover the life cycle of the apple tree, as a seed grows into a sapling and then branches out into a full-grown tree. The information is divided into tabbed sections that successfully provide a model for organizing research on other plants. Text features: Labeled photographs, insets, diagrams, index. (Investigation 1: Brassica Seeds – Plant’s life cycle)


Paulsen, Gary. THE TORTILLA FACTORY. Harcourt, 1998. 32p. $7.50. ISBN 0152016988. Workers are shown planting seeds, growing the plants and then making tortillas. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds)

Ray, Deborah. THE FLOWER HUNTER: WILLIAM BARTRAM, AMERICA’S FIRST NATURALIST. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 40p. $17.00. ISBN 0374345899,
William Bartram’s biography is written as a series of journal entries, drawings, and observations. Named “Puc Puggy” (flower hunter) by the Seminole, Bartram inherited a love of nature from his botanist father. Vibrant watercolor illustrations and delightful pencil sketches illustrate the story of America’s first botanical artist. (Doing Science)


Robbins, Ken. SEEDS. Atheneum, 2005. 32p. $16.00. ISBN 0689850417. Exceptional photography pictures unusual seeds and plants such as lotus, coconut, and sticktights and common seeds and plants like corn, wheat, cherry, blackberry and dandelion. The text includes how these seeds grow, and how they vary in size, shave and dispersal patterns. (Investigation 2: Grass and Grain Seeds - How seeds travel)


Whitehouse, Patricia. ROOTS. Heinemann, 2002. 24p. $5.75. ISBN 1588107310. As a part of the Plants series, this text provides basic introduction to roots, their sizes, shapes, colors, as well as function and uses to humans and animals. Color photos illustrate the text. Text features: Table of contents, labels, glossary, and index. (Investigation 4: Bulbs and Roots) Included in this series: Seeds and Leaves

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October 2005