

# Books About Gardening in the City

*Ideas from the New Jersey Agricultural Society  
Learning Through Gardening program*

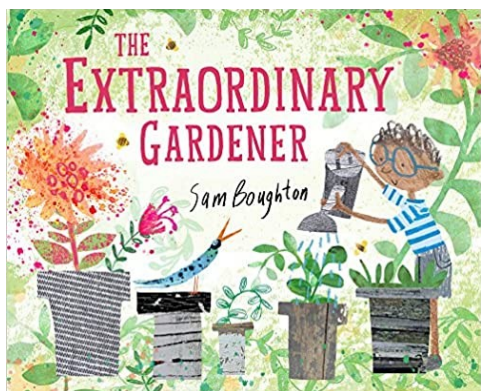
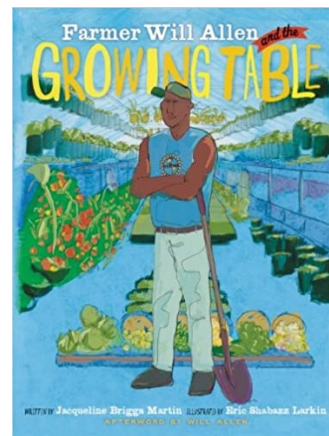
**OVERVIEW:** Agriculture doesn't happen only in the country. In fact, you don't need a lot of space to be a gardener who grows healthy and delicious fruits and vegetables. These books show how gardens can sprout among cement and blacktop, and how a garden can grow into a community.

**GRADES:** PreK-5

## *Farmer Will and the Growing Table*

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

This book tells the true story of professional basketball player Will Allen, who was bit by the gardening bug when he retired from the sport. He bought a plot of land in the middle of Milwaukee, where "fresh vegetables were as scarce as trout in the desert." With help from the community, Will turned his plot into a burgeoning garden.



## *The Extraordinary Gardener*

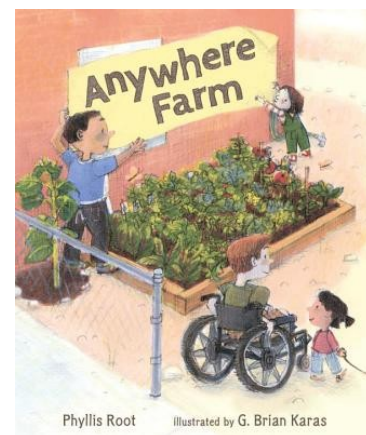
by Sam Boughton

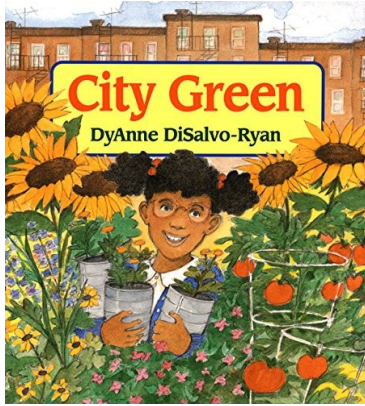
Joe lives in an apartment building in the middle of a city, but he has a wild imagination and dreams of a place full a beauty, color, scent, and song. He attempts to bring his idea to life by planting one little apple seed. It takes a while, but the tree on his balcony grows so beautifully, Joe expands his apartment garden and then shares it with his neighbors.

## *Anywhere Farm*

by Phyllis Root

This delightful rhyming book reinforces the idea that you can plant a garden anywhere. "For an anywhere farm, here's all you need - soil and sunshine, some water, a seed." Where can you plant your anywhere farm? "An old empty lot makes a good growing plot. But a pan or a bucket, a pot or a shoe, a bin or a tin or a window will do."





## *City Green*

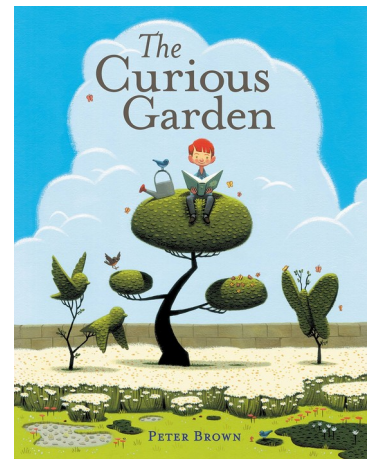
By DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

When an unsafe building on their block is torn down, Marcy and Miss Rosa decide to do something with the abandoned lot. They rent the lot for \$1 from the city and begin to clean up the space for a garden. Neighbors passing by offer to help. Soon everyone is digging in the soil and planting seeds, even Old Man Hammer who insisted the garden was a waste of time.

## *The Curious Garden*

by Peter Brown

“There once was a city without gardens of trees or greenery of any kind.... as you can imagine, it was a very dreary place.” But a boy named Liam, who loves being outside, finds some struggling wildflowers on an abandoned railway. As Liam learns to care for the plants, they start spreading down the railway, and eventually, all over the city.



## New Jersey Learning Standards

English Language Arts: 1:RI.1.1-4,6

2:RI.2.1-7

3:RI.3.1-7

3:RI.3.1,2,4

4:RI.4.1,2,4

5:RI.5.1,2,4