Garden Books for Little Ones: PreK-1

*Ideas from the New Jersey Agricultural Society*

*Learning Through Gardening program*

**Up, Down, and Around**
by Katherine Ayres
This fun garden book shows little ones how different vegetables grow: corn grows up, carrots grow down, and cucumbers climb around and around. Your students will love doing hand motions as they recite the text with you.

**Lunch**
by Denise Fleming
This simple book about colors follows a hungry mouse as he eats an assortment of fruits and vegetables such as a crisp white turnip, a tasty orange carrot, and shiny red apples.

**If You Plant a Seed**
By Kadir Nelson
This book, with its gorgeous, bold pictures, tells the story of how a rabbit and a mouse plant a vegetable garden and how sharing is often the easiest path to choose. The pictures are so compelling you can just show them to little ones, and they will tell the story to you.

**Pick a Circle, Gather Squares**
*A Fall Harvest of Shapes*
by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky
A trip to the pumpkin farm on a lovely October day turns into a hunt for shapes: oval eggs, square hay bales, diamond kites, and hexagon honeycombs. Read the book and launch your own hunt for shapes around the garden.

**Cheers for a Dozen Ears**
*A Summer Crop of Counting*
By Felicia Sanzari Chernesky
The children in this book use fun rhymes to count the fruits and vegetables their mother buys at the farm stand.
**The Leaf Man**  
by Lois Ehlert  
“A Leaf Man’s got to go where the wind blows.” The pictures in this beautiful book all are made from autumn leaves. After reading about the Leaf Man’s wind-blown travels, your students can collect leaves and make their own leaf men. This is a great way to launch a discussion about why the autumn leaves look so colorful.

**What Will Grow?**  
By Jennifer Ward  
With charming illustrations and vivid descriptions, this book demonstrates that seeds come in a vast number of shapes, colors, and sizes. Pair this book with a seed-sorting activity, asking students to sort a variety of seeds by size, shape, and color.

**New Jersey Learning Standards**

*English Language Arts: PreK: RL.PK.1-6  K-1: R.1-6*