

ALFALFA:



Alfalfa, Beans & Clover, by Joan Elma Rahn and Ginny Linville Winter. Atheneum, 1976. 119 p. An introduction to the characteristics, uses, and importance of about sixty members of the bean family, one of the largest and most diverse families of flowering plants.



Hay from Seed to Feed, by Jan Arnow. Random House Books for Young Readers, 1986. 39 p. Chronicles the production of alfalfa hay. Although the exact methods of alfalfa production will vary from one region of the country to another, the basic concepts are well covered.

Grimm Farm Historic Site:

www.threeriversparks.org/parks/carver-park/grimm-historical-farm.aspx

AMERICAN ELM:



First Guide to Trees, by Roger Tory Peterson. 2nd ed. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008. 128 p. Lots of information in an easy to understand format, especially for kids.



My Favorite Tree: Terrific Trees of North America, by Diane Iverson. Dawn Publications, 1999. 63 p. Covers many ways trees are vital to wildlife, including the American Elm. Includes maps of the trees' native habitats.



The Tree, by Karen Gray Ruelle. Holiday House, 2008. [unpaged] A fascinating journey through time as it imagines the beginnings of New York City's oldest Elm. This tree witnessed the very beginnings of the city's settlement.

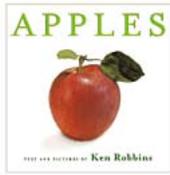


The Tree Book: For Kids and Their Grown-ups, by Gina Ingoglia. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008. 96 p. The first part of this clearly-written book is about trees in general. The second part will help readers identify and learn about more than thirty different kinds of trees (including American Elm) found in North America.

Arbor Day Foundation. National Tree Candidates: Elm:

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/nationaltree/elm.cfm>

APPLES:



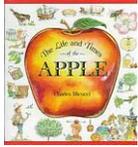
Apples, by Ken Robbins. Atheneum, 2002. 32 p. Young readers will learn how apples grow, from the planting of a tree, to the pollination of buds by bees, and on to the harvest.



Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis, by Robbin Gourley. Clarion Books, 2009. 45 p. Long before the natural-food movement gained popularity, before greenmarkets sprouted across the United States, Edna Lewis championed purity of ingredients, regional cuisine, and the importance of bringing food directly from the farm to the table. She was a chef when female chefs---let alone African American female chefs---were few and far between, and she received many awards for her work.



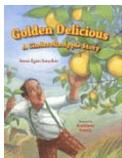
Apples to Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes, and Cherries (and Children) Across the Plains, by Deborah Hopkinson and Nancy Carpenter. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. [unpaged]. A pioneer father transports his beloved fruit trees and his family to Oregon in the mid-nineteenth century. Based loosely on the life of Henderson Luelling.



The Life and Times of the Apple, by Charles Micucci. Scholastic, 1995. 32 p. New books on apples are published regularly, but this one is outstanding. Concisely, yet with contagious enthusiasm, Micucci (who, as part of his research, planted exactly 23 apple seeds in his N.Y.C. apartment) describes the lifecycle of the apple and its culture.



Apple Harvest, by Calvin Harris. Capstone Press, 2008. 24 p. Simple text and photographs present an apple harvest in the fall.

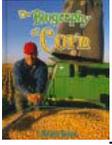


Golden Delicious : A Cinderella Apple Story, by Anna Egan Smucker. Albert Whitman & Co., 2008. [unpaged] Based on real events, this story of how the Golden Delicious apple came to be is ideal for discussions on nature and growing fruits and vegetables.



Fall Apples: Crisp and Juicy, by Martha E. H. Rustad and Amanda Enright. Millbrook Press, 2012. 24 p. Discusses how apples grow and how to use them, including pies and cider.

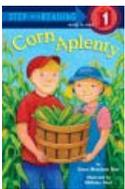
CORN:



The Biography of Corn (How Did That Get Here?), by L. Michelle Nielsen. Crabtree Publishing, 2007. 32 p. Maize, or corn, was the staple food of many early cultures in South America, Mesoamerica, and the Caribbean. The Biography of Corn will teach young readers how the farming of corn spread to the rest of the world and how corn may be one answer to fossil fuel consumption.



Corn, by Gail Gibbons. Holiday House, 2008. 32 p. Myriad facts about corn, from most basic to the more complex process of how kernels are formed. Importance of the crop to Mayans, Pilgrims and many current products from corn are explained.



Corn Aplenty, by Dana Meachen Rau, Melissa Iwai. Random House, 2009. 32 p. Two children watch a local farmer grow a crop of corn and as the corn develops--from seed to harvest time--so does the friendship between the children and the farmer.



Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition, by Sally Hunter. Lerner Publishing, 1997. 40 p. In an effort to continue the traditions of the Hochunk (Winnebago) people, Hunter follows 12-year-old Russell through a year as he learns about his people's special relationship with corn. Russell is a hard-working St. Paul student, fond of computers, hockey, and football.



The Life and Times of Corn, by Charles Micucci. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2009. 32 p. The author follows the growth, cultivation and number of uses of this 'a-maize-ing' plant. He introduces the history and life cycle of corn with timelines, maps and fun corn facts.

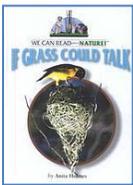
LAWN/TURFGRASS



Hare and the Big Green Lawn , by Katharine Robey and Larry MacDougall. Rising Moon, 2006. [unpaged] When Hare moves to the suburbs he does not know what to do with his big, green lawn, but with careful and loving neglect--much to the neighbor's dismay--he eventually has a beautiful meadow instead.

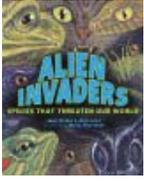


The Grass Patch Project , by Molly Blaisdell and James Demski. Picture Window Books, 2008. 32 p. A story about classmates who try to grow grass for a contest teaches young readers about grasses.

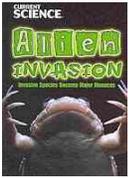


If Grass Could Talk, by Anita Holmes. Benchmark Books, 2001. 32 p. Grasses describe the important jobs that they do, from feeding animals and grain harvesting to making reed furniture and beautifying gardens.

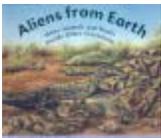
PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE:



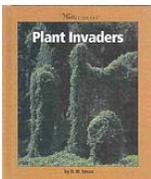
Alien Invaders: Species that Threaten Our World, by Jane Drake and Ann Love. Tundra Books, 2008. 56 p. From the days of sailing ships, and shipboard rats to the fungus that sparked the Irish potato famine to the beautiful but deadly purple loosestrife, the authors examine endangerments attributed to these alien invaders.



Alien invasion: Invasive Species Become Major Menaces, by Cari Jackson. Gareth Stevens Pub., 2010. 48 p. Aliens have taken over our parks, our gardens, our stream and lakes! They are not from outer space-- they are plants, animals, and other organisms that have hitchhiked beyond their own home habitats on Earth.



Aliens from Earth: When Animals and Plants Invade Other Ecosystems, by Mary Batten. Peachtree Publishers, 2008. 32 p. The narrative moves quickly and interestingly from topic to topic. Lively personal-interest reading, this picture book for older children is fast moving, clear, and well detailed.



Plant Invaders, by Dorothy M. Souza. F. Watts, 2003. 63 p. Discusses non-native plants, such as the kudzu vine and the tree-of-heaven, which were imported from other countries and now pose a significant threat to the ecosystems of North America.

Minnesota Sea Grant. Purple Loosestrife: What You Should Know, What You Can Do: www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/purpleloosestrife_info

SOYBEANS:



Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic, by Ginnie Lo. Lee & Low Books, 2012. [unpaged] A Chinese American girl's Auntie Yang discovers soybeans-a favorite Chinese food-growing in Illinois, leading her family to a soybean picnic tradition that grows into an annual community event. Includes glossary.



Soybeans: An A to Z Book (Awesome Agriculture for Kids), by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggiey. Northwest Arm Press, 2009. 28 p. Shows through words and pictures the many uses of soybeans.

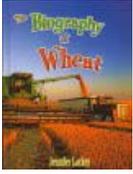


Soybeans in the Story of Agriculture, by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggiey. Northwest Arm Press, 2009. 35 p. Shows through words and pictures the many uses of soybeans.

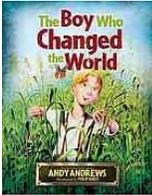


The Super Soybean, by Raymond Bial. Albert Whitman & Co., 2007. 40 p. Readers will be amazed at how much contact they have with soy. The versatile bean is used in foods, plastics, medicines, fuels, inks, crayons, and zillions of other products. Well organized and well indexed.

WHEAT:



The Biography of Wheat, by Jennifer Lackey. Crabtree Publishing, 2007. 32 p. Explains what wheat is, describes how it is grown and harvested, and discusses its importance in history.



The Boy Who Changed the World, by Andy Andrews. Thomas Nelson, 2010. [unpaged] Beginning with Norman Borlaug and going back to those who influenced him, shows how one ordinary boy came to develop "super plants" (disease-resistant wheat varieties) that helped save billions of people from starvation.



Bread!: Life on a Wheat Farm, by Ruth Owen. Windmill Books, 2012. 32 p. Looks at life on a wheat farm, including planting time, harvesting, and selling the wheat at market.

WHITE PINE:



From Pinecone to Pine Tree, by Ellen Weiss. 2008. 24 p. Follows the process by which pine trees grow, from pinecone to seed, to seedling, to tree.



From Seed to Pine Tree: Following the Life Cycle, by Suzanne Slade and Jeff Yesh. Children's Press, 2009. 24 p. An introduction to the development and growth of the pine tree.



Giants in the Land, by Diana Appelbaum. Sandpiper. 2000, c1993. 32 p. Although this book talks about the giant white pines in New England, the loggers came west into Minnesota after the trees are gone.



The Lonely Pine, by Aaron Frisch and Étienne Delessert. Creative Editions, 2011. [unpaged] A small pine that is earth's northernmost tree experiences a year's worth of Arctic sights, changes, and hardships, including the aurora borealis, vast animal migrations, and brutal cold.



Watch Pine Trees Grow, by Therese Shea. Gareth Stevens Pub., 2011. 24 p. Learn about the life cycle of a pine tree.

Arbor Day Foundation. Tree Guide: White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

www.arborday.org/treeguide/treeDetail.cfm?id=42

Boreal Forest Library. Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus* L.). 2002. The Wilderness Classroom Organization.

www.wildernessclassroom.com/www/schoolhouse/boreal_library/plants/white_pine.htm

Wikipedia. *Pinus strobus* en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_strobus

WILD RICE:



The Ojibwa: Wild Rice Gatherers, by Therese DeAngelis. Blue Earth Books, 2003. Discusses the Ojibwa Indians, focusing on their tradition of gathering wild rice. Includes a rice recipe and instructions for making a dream catcher.



The Sacred Harvest: Ojibway Wild Rice Gathering, by Gordon Regguinti. Lerner Publishing, 1992. 48 p. Glen Jackson, Jr., an eleven-year-old Ojibway Indian in northern Minnesota, goes with his father to harvest wild rice, the sacred food of his people.