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Green Thumbs: A Kid's Activity Guide To Indoor And Outdoor Gardening (Kid's Guide)



Synopsis

Budding gardeners will learn what it takes to make things grow with fun activities that require only readily available materials.

Book Information

Series: Kid's Guide

Paperback: 144 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #345,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Gardening #187 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Outdoor & Recreational Areas #4730 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

We just received this book, and I am excited to try out a few of the ideas with my young children. However, I am a little surprised and disappointed by some of the experiments. The author goes into great detail discussing how to grow a "Mold Plant" from a slice of bread, and how to grow a "Yeast Plant" from baker's yeast. Mold and Yeast are from the Kingdom Fungi, not the Plant Kingdom. Also, it states that Algae is a plant. That is sometimes true, but not always. Some are grouped into the Kingdom Protista instead of the Plant Kingdom (bc they are not multicellular, yet they are still photosynthetic). If you are teaching your child about different kingdoms and scientific classifications this could be very confusing (and misleading)...especially since recent research has actually determined that Fungi are closer genetically to animals than to plants....but I digress. I believe that many parents purchased this book in hopes of using it as an educational resource. It is even listed in "The Well Trained Mind" as recommended reading for science education. More fact checking needs to go into the next edition!

I love this book. Yes, much of the information can be found online, but I wouldn't have thought to look up some of these things. If you're already an experienced gardener, this book may be a waste of time, but if you're a beginner and want to get your kids involved, it's great for motivating the 'budding' gardener. This book is full of ideas for making gardening tools and materials using everyday household objects, like empty milkjugs (you can do many things with those!), muffin tins, 2-liter bottles, egg cartons, etc. There are recipes for natural, homemade bug sprays, pest strips, composting, and more. I found it informative as well. There are bits of information about butterflies and how to attract them, weeds, worms, pests, helpful plants (what grows well with what) and critters, growing plants from leaf cuttings, tasty recipes using things you've grown, making herbed butter, starting your outdoor garden, growing seedlings indoors, making birdfeeders, gourd rattles, catnip bags, and lots more good stuff...and all using things you have around the house. A great resource for the beginners and kids who like crafty things.

I never knew milk jugs were so versatile! They can be made into shovels, totes, watering cans, scarecrows, bird-feeders... This book offers creative, inexpensive ways to teach kids about gardening and plants in general. What a great way to learn! All the lessons involve a hands-on activity, not just for fun, but for learning. Kids learn how plants absorb water by putting food-coloring in the water of a cut white carnation. Kids learn that some birds help plants by eating bugs, but some birds eat fruit; hence, the milk-jug scarecrow. Seeds are sprouted in a baggy in a window to demonstrate roots, stem, leaves, and how it all starts. Then, of course, there is plenty of standard gardening activities: starting seeds indoors in paper egg-cartons, planting outdoors after frost, watering, composting, mulching... There are a few ideas I never would have thought of, for instance, collecting different seeds around the neighborhood just to watch the ways different weeds sprout and grow--in containers, of course. This book has a very organic approach to gardening, teaching kids to maintain topsoil, make bug-spray from garlic... I anticipate that my kids will be quite educated about plants and gardens by the time we finish this book. I also expect that my yard will look quite littered with milk jugs. But I'm glad this is not just a book about cutesy activities with plants. Real educational projects are usually a little messy; in this case, milk-juggy.

I bought this on a recommendation from a book by Susan Wise Bauer for elementary science ideas. I didn't find it very helpful or useful. The ideas are very basic. I did like the idea for creating hand spades from milk cartons. I'll use it as a 'self-starter' resource for my kids if they want something to

do.

After reading about this book in "The Well-Trained Mind", I was curious to read it before purchasing it as it is, in my opinion, pricy for such a thin book. I ordered it from the library and I'm very glad that I did before ordering it. As I wrote, the book is extremely thin. The illustrations are simple, black line drawings, and the experiments are fun for a child, but as another reviewer wrote, you would be able to think of the majority of these on your own, or doing an online search of gardening experiments for children. My children and I had already previously done many of the listed experiments. I hate to give a book a bad review when the book itself is not poorly written. My review is for the price, as the value of the book does not rise to meet the high price.

I really liked the progression of this book and how it introduced plants and then growing them (indoor and out) and then even recipes for eating plants from the garden. First I checked this out from the library but knew we had to have it in our own collection for more-frequent use.

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