

FARMER RITA'S FIELD NOTES

Manatee County Agricultural Museum

"SUMMER READING CHALLENGE"

Plant
yourself in a
good book



Read
Write
Repeat

FOR KIDS

Farmer Rita's Field Notes!

Help Farmer Rita finish her field notes by the end of summer to win a prize!



Fun Fact: Farmers take detailed notes called field notes about their crops, or plants grown for food. They write down their observations, or what they notice, about each crop. This helps farmers keep track of how each crop is growing and helps identify any problems they need to solve.

How To:

- Read ONE book from each page and check it off.
- Complete the "Field Notes" section at the bottom of each page.
- Turn in your completed booklet to the Ag Museum by August 16th, 2025 to receive a prize!



Note: All books can be found in the Manatee County Public Library System AND as read-aloud videos on YouTube.



Planting My Seeds



Seeds Move!

By: Robin Page



The Tiny Seed

By: Eric Carle

Field Notes #1

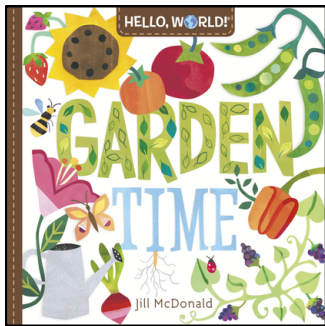
What is one way seeds are spread?

Name an animal that likes to eat seeds.

Add some seeds to the drawing below.



Watering My Sprouts



Sprout Branches Out
By: Jessika Von
Innerebner



Garden Time
By: Jill McDonald



Field Notes #2

A storm is brewing! Draw a rain shower to help your sprouts grow tall and strong.

What's another way you can water your sprouts?



Composting My Scraps



Compost Stew

By: Mary
McKenna Siddals



Garbage Helps Our
Garden Grow

By: Linda Glaser

Field Notes #3

Circle the items below that can be composted.

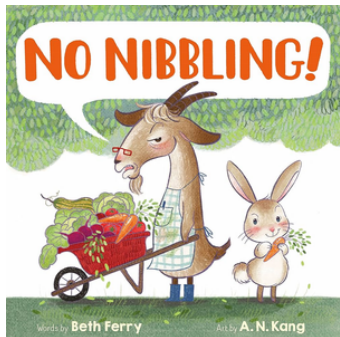


Weeding My Veggie Garden



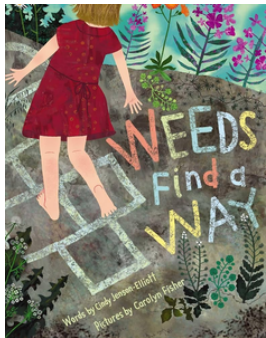
Did you know? A weed is a **wild plant growing where it is not wanted**. Weeds can grow very fast and tall.

They take water and nutrients from the soil and block smaller plants from the sun. Farmers pull weeds so their plants have enough water, nutrients, sunlight, and space to grow.



No Nibbling!

By: Beth Ferry



Weeds Find A Way.

By: Cindy Jensen-Elliott

Field Notes #4

Name one type of weed mentioned in your book.

Find a weed outside and draw it in the box above.



Listening to My Beehives



Bee Dance

By: Rick Chrustowski



The Honeybee

By: Kirsten Hall

Field Notes #5

Trace the waggle dance below to help the bees communicate!

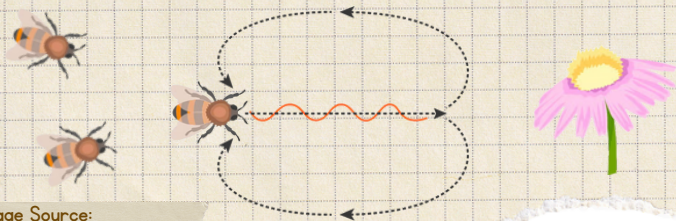
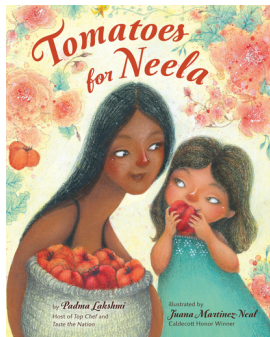


Image Source:
Arizona State University

Tending to My Tomatoes



Tomatoes for Neela
By: Padma Lakshmi



Bear & Bunny Grow Tomatoes
By: Bruce Koscielniak

Field Notes #6

Where do tomatoes grow?

A) On a vine

B) On a tree

C) Underground



Did you know?

Tomatoes are Manatee County's **top crop**! That means we grow more **tomatoes** than any other fruit or vegetable!



Testing My Soil

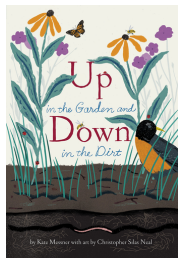


Did you know? Farmers test their soil to see what nutrients are in it and what nutrients are missing. Just like us, **plants need certain nutrients to grow healthy and strong.** Instead of getting nutrients from food like we do, plants absorb their nutrients from the soil they are grown in.



Dirt

By: Steve Tomecek



Up in the Garden,
Down in the Dirt

By: Kate Messner

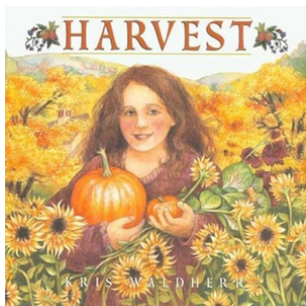
Field Notes #7



Name one animal that lives in soil. _____

Name one plant that grows in soil. _____

Harvesting My Crops



Harvest

By: Kris Waldherr



Strega Nona's Harvest

By: Tomie DePaola

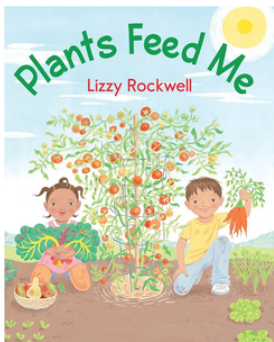
Field Notes #8

Draw plants to fill your harvest baskets.
Add TWO fruits or vegetables you read about.

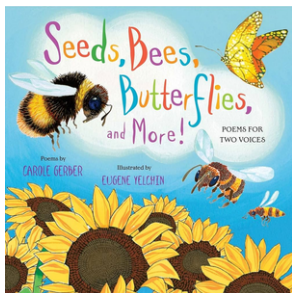


Bonus Books!

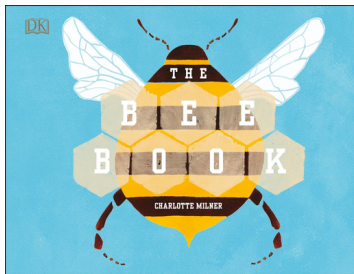
Can't get enough farming fun?
Here are some more books to explore!



Plants Feed Me
By: Lizzy Rockwell



Seeds, Bees,
Butterflies, and More!
By: Carole Gerber



The Bee Book
By: Charlotte Milner



What's Inside A Flower?
By: Rachel Ignatofsky

Bring your completed booklet to the
Manatee County Agricultural Museum
by August 16th, 2025 to receive a prize!

1015 6th St W, Palmetto, FL 34221
www.ManateeCountyAgMuseum.com

