



GrowLab: Activities for Growing Minds



IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Eve Pranis &
Joy Cohen

National Gardening
Association
180 Flynn Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

phone: (800) 538-7476
(802) 863-1308
fax: (802) 863-5962
e-mail: sales@garden.org
website: www.2garden.org

Cost: \$9.99

SUBJECTS

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies

This book contains forty-five indoor gardening and plant-related activities. Each of the four sections highlights a different concept in plant science: basic needs and structure, plant reproduction, diversity and adaptations, and the role of plants in ecosystems. The lesson plans are structured in four parts: laying the groundwork, exploration, making connections, and branching out. Each activity is provided with an overview and is labeled for the targeted age group, time requirements for the various sections of the lessons, materials required (including handouts, worksheets or other papers), and advance preparation.

Suggestions for instructors are found in the 20-page introduction, in the margins, and in frequent background sections. Activities include experiments with growing plants from seeds or roots, testing the effects of light on plants, and exploring photosynthesis by testing for sugar and starch. The book includes numerous appendices, including form masters, resource lists, an index, and suggestions for extension activities.

Grade Level
K-8

Length
307 pages

Date Published
1995

THE **BOTTOM**
L I N E

"This is an outstanding resource book containing many straightforward, factual discovery lessons."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Extensively referenced throughout. Fact-based, seems fair and accurate.	
	Depth	Strong emphasis on awareness. Makes connections to children's literature and to social/economic impacts.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Develops observation, questioning, reasoning, problem solving and technical skills.	Contains only minimal suggestions for action skills.
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Activities require student participation and group work. Provides interdisciplinary opportunities and connections to learners' lives.	Objectives are clear, but overly simplistic.
	Usability	Materials are clear, long-lived, easy to use, provide numerous choices for the instructor.	Binding makes it difficult to copy pages.

"While technically correct, the information is very basic. Use it as a source of experiments adaptable to any grade level."

"Highlights learning to help plants grow, and to improve school and community."