

Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among New Jersey educators and students. You can learn more on our website [newjersey.agclassroom.org](http://newjersey.agclassroom.org)

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## Get Ready for National Ag Week

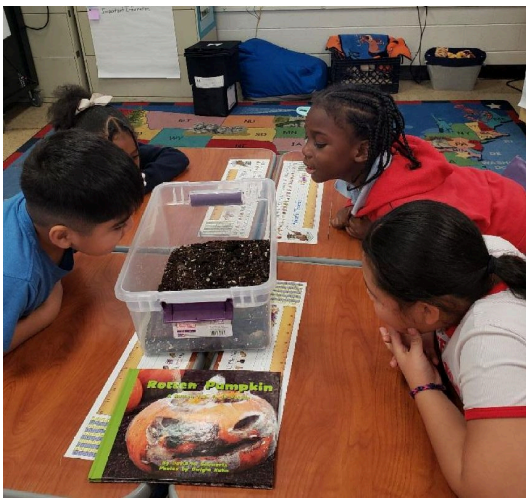
It's National Agriculture Week this month, from March 15 to March 21. Ag Week was started 53 years ago by the Agriculture Council of America to remind people of the vital importance of agriculture in everyone's life.

Even though everything we eat, and much of what we wear and use daily, are provided by farms, most children today have never set foot on a farm and many believe that their food comes from the supermarket. Agriculture is rarely discussed in schools.

The theme of this year's National Ag Week is *Together We Grow*. We are encouraging teachers of all grades to take this opportunity to plant something edible in their classrooms. Show students how their food grows! See our highlighted lessons below or find more on our Basic Gardening webpage [here](#).



**Show Us Your Ag!**  
***What Does Teaching Ag Look Like  
in Your Classroom?***



To celebrate National Agriculture Week, NJAITC is launching our *Show Us Your Ag!* campaign. Send us a photo of what teaching agriculture looks like in your classroom, with a short explanation, and you will win free teaching materials.

Teachers of grades PreK-4 will receive a copy of *The Soil in Jackie's Garden* by Peggy Thomas, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's 2025 book of the year. You can find more information about the book [here](#).

Teachers of grades 5-12 will receive 10 copies of the booklet *Science in Your Shopping Cart*, which explores how scientists and farmers use biotechnology, GPS, drones, and more to feed a growing population while protecting the environment. You can check it out [here](#).

Email your photo by March 14 to [njagliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:njagliteracy@gmail.com) or post it directly to our [Facebook page](#).

Everyone who sends a photo will receive the free teaching materials. We can't wait for you to show us your ag!



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***There's still time***

## ***To Be NJAITC's Teacher of the Year***

We have extended the deadline to apply to be our 2026 Teacher of the Year. The new deadline is March 23.

We know you're out there, so don't be shy! Show us how you've been teaching agriculture to your students, and you can win an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom's annual conference.

Our Teacher of the Year is a PreK-8 teacher who teaches about agriculture as part of their core curriculum and is passionate about teaching students where their food comes from and how it is grown. You must be a New Jersey-certified teacher of grades PreK-8 in a public or private school.

The Teacher of the Year will be awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization's annual conference, the premier forum to learn about teaching agricultural concepts as part of the core curriculum. This year the conference will be held in Providence, RI June 22-25.



***Don't delay! Apply today!***  
***Click [here](#) for more information and for the application.***

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## Join Our Team! Be an NJAITC Educator

New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom is seeking a part-time agricultural literacy educator to help us inspire teachers to show the next generation where their food, fiber, and fuel come from.

We are flexible, so if you are interested, let's talk. Email program leader Caroline Etsch at [njagliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:njagliteracy@gmail.com).

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### Do Your Students Know:

## Food Doesn't Grow In the Supermarket!

A great way to observe National Agriculture Week is to show students *Food Doesn't Grow in the Supermarket*, an amusing and engaging 28-minute video that reveals where their food really comes from - New Jersey farms!

In the video, City Guy buys his favorite foods—milk, cranberry juice, vegetables—at the supermarket and never wonders how it all got there. Then in his suit and tie, City Guy is transported to three New Jersey farms to learn where his food comes from and to meet the hardworking farmers who grow it for him.



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## Lessons of the Month

To celebrate National Agriculture Week, we are asking every teacher to do just one thing: plant something edible in your classroom!

We think you'll agree that children should experience the wonder of seeds - - everything we eat and most of what we wear starts as the tiny objects we place in the ground.

Yet most students, particularly in the older grades, don't plant seeds at school.



As our lessons of the month, we have compiled our favorite classroom-friendly seed planting and growing activities. Ask a local gardening center for a small donation of seeds, or pick some up at the local dollar store. (They will grow just as well as expensive seeds.) We guarantee you will be rewarded by the amazement on your students' faces!



### **Seed Necklaces** *Grades PreK-8*

Students plant seeds on cotton balls and place them in small sealed bags to observe the entire germination process. If you use radish seeds, you'll see the whole process in just one week!

For the grades PreK-5 lesson, click [here](#).  
For the grades 6-8 lesson, click [here](#).



### **Growing Gloves** *Grades 2-5* *can be modified for* *older grades*

Students plant a different type of seed in each finger of a transparent glove, where they can easily observe the different germination rates and graph the results.

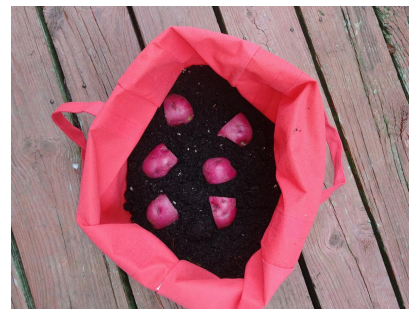
Click [here](#) for the lesson.



### **Can Plants Sense Gravity?** *Discovering Gravitropism* *Grades 2-8*

Does it matter if you plant a seed right-side up or upside down? This experiment shows students how plants can sense gravity.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.



### **Sack of Potatoes:** *How to Grow Potatoes* *in a Shopping Bag* *Suitable for all grades*

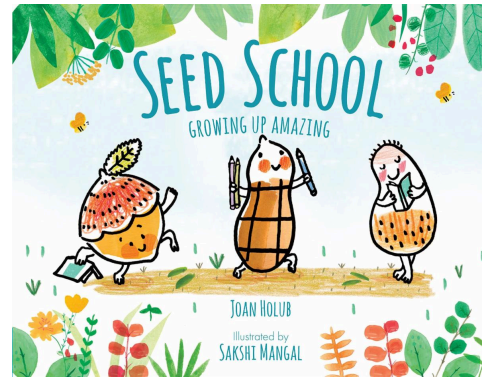
Do your students know that French fries are made from potatoes? This fun and simple lesson can be done in any classroom to show students how one of their favorite foods is grown.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.

### Seed School Growing Up Amazing

By Joan Holub  
Grades PreK-3

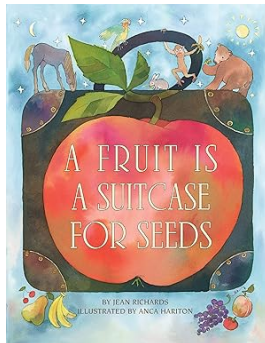
At Seed School, seeds of all different shapes and sizes learn how to grow into vibrant fruit, vegetables and flowers, using soil, water, and sunshine. But why is that unusual seed wearing a cap taking so long to grow?



### A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds

By Jean Richards  
Grades 3-5

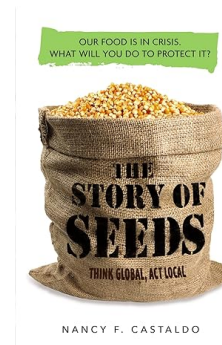
Students will learn how fruits are designed to protect a plant's seeds and also to help the plant spread its seeds to new places. A fruit is like a suitcase for seeds - it protects them on their trip.



### The Story of Seeds: Our Food is in Crisis. What Will You Do to Protect It?

By Nancy Castaldo  
Grades 6-12

The use of many seeds is dwindling—of 80,000 edible plants, only about 150 are now being cultivated. This book chronicles where our food comes from and the importance of seeds in the world.



### March Ag Gag

Why did the farmer plow her field with a steamroller?

She wanted mashed potatoes!

**Happy Ag Week!**

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