

A Patch From Scratch

By Megan Forward

Publisher: Viking/Penguin

ISBN 9780670078295

\$24.99

Jesse and Lewis want to grow their own fruit and vegies, just like people do on a farm. They're going to dig and build, plant and grow, and when they're finished they're going to have a feast!

'An engaging book, with beautiful illustrations, that helps show children the joys of growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh, seasonal, delicious food in their own backyard.' - Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation



Themes:

- Growing Food
- Building
- Seasonal Produce

Discussion Points and activities:

- Looking at the title, do you know what the story is about?
- Why did the family want to grow their own fruit and vegetables?
- As a class, discuss the advantages of growing your own food for the environment, as well as for the family themselves.
- Do you have a 'veggie patch' or keep chickens at home? If so, what things do you grow? Do you help look after them?
- Make a list of all the things you need to consider to ensure that when you plant fruits and vegetables that they will grow.
- Do you know what compost is and how it works?
- The family had a feast with those that helped them. Why and how is sharing food with others an important thing in our lives?
- What are all the different types of things you can grow, ie: herbs, fruit on vines, etc.. Using this draw a class mural of your suggestions, grouping them into their different categories.
- There are some recipes at the back of the book using things from the patch. Think of some other things that you could make using produce grown in the patch or from the chickens.