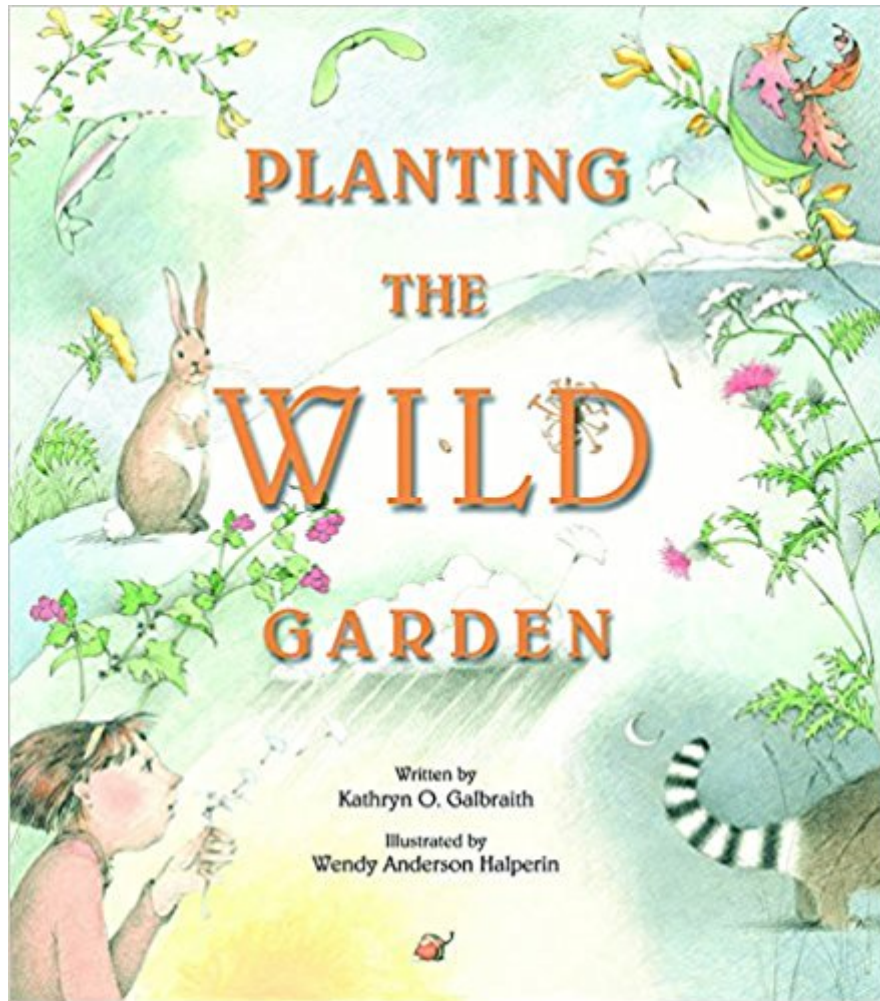




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# Planting The Wild Garden



## Synopsis

A farmer and her son carefully plant seeds in their garden. In the wild garden, many seeds are planted too, but not by farmers hands. Different kinds of animals transport all sorts of seeds, often without knowing it. Sometimes rain washes seeds away to a new and unexpected location. And sometimes something extraordinary occurs, as when the pods of Scotch broom burst open explosively in the summer heat, scattering seeds everywhere like popcorn. Kathryn Galbraith's lyrical prose seamlessly combines with Wendy Halperin's elegant, crisp illustrations to show that many elements-some unexpected-work together through the seasons to create and sustain the wild meadow garden.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

"...The sumptuous illustrations by Wendy Anderson convey the richness and profusion of wild plantings..." ?Los Angeles Times "Wendy Anderson Halperin's lovely, muted illustrations match Galbraith's poetic lines..." ?Seattle Times Sunday "...Wendy Anderson Halperin's pencil and watercolor illustrations are the book's carrying force, showing the small finenesses of the natural world." ?Chicago Tribune "...There's plenty to pore over and savor; this title would germinate nicely in primary classrooms and sow curiosity in one-on-one sharing." ?Kirkus "...It's a thoroughly handsome book, suffused with calm." ?Publishers Weekly "...A natural

choice for curriculum connections." ?Booklist "...from the elegant seed-full endpapers to the carefully selected font, this is a lovely introduction to the modes of seed dispersal..." ?School Library Journal "...In this lyrical picture book, text and illustrations combine to demonstrate the many ways seeds are distributed - by weather, water, people, animals and the plants themselves..." ?Midwest Book Review "...This lovely and poetic picture book by Kathryn O. Galbraith demonstrates for young readers the many methods of seed dispersal at work on the planet...Endpapers are also beautifully illustrated, featuring examples of many types of seeds..." ?Parents' Choice

Kathryn O. Galbraith is an award-winning author of over a dozen books for children and a frequent speaker at schools and conferences.

Planting the Wild Garden by Kathryn O. Galbraith was delightful! Wendy Anderson Halperin added to the story through her illustrations. While the book didn't focus on specific wildflowers, it showed that many animals and other natural forces help "plant" wild gardens. This is a basic look at seed dispersal. The illustrations are lovely--I like seeing all the different types of seeds inside the front and back covers. The story starts with a farmer and boy planting seeds in a garden. Illustrations of the process of the new seed growing toward a plant that can be eaten are shown along the outside edge of the main picture. The reader then is guided through other ways seeds are "planted", such as wind dispersion. The illustrations show the wind scattering the seeds. Sound words are included which make for a great read aloud book. Even the text is whimsically patterned like the wind on this page. Small details like this make a difference. The goldfinch is used to illustrate how "droppings" can help in seed dispersal as well. Lots of great thistle drawings. Sound words are included once again. Little information is given on this section that briefly looks at scat (poop) as a way of seed dispersal. This keeps with the dignity of the book; however, I like using that gross factor to get children's attention. The Scotch broom plant (invasive in the western US) is used to show how some seed pods POP! Fun illustrations show that progression. Personally, I love jewelweed locally, one of the touch me nots. This is such a fun little plant that makes me happy! Rain is also a way that seeds are moved from one place to another. Plip-plop! Love how the gray lines show the rain in this illustration. Moving beyond the rain, a stream is shown as another dispersal technique with some making it to the banks to grow the next year. A few animals are also part of this dispersal process, looking at a rabbit started by a fox and spreading seeds in the process. Seeds also attach on her fur, with a mention of cockleburs and creeping through Queen Anne's lace (also came from Europe). I like that they mention how they "hook" onto the fur. Raccoons also feast on blackberries

and bring seeds with them. Squirrels bury acorns to store for the winter, yet often become trees if not found again. The author even looks at us as humans and how seeds catch on our socks and pants and muddy boots. We also love blowing seeds and helping with wind dispersal. The author ends with "Seed by seed, we planted this wild meadow garden. Wind and water. Birds and animals. Plants and people. All of us. Together." A bibliography of additional resources is included at the end. I really liked this book that looks at seed dispersal! It's great for preschoolers and could be used for elementary school as well, using it to set the stage and then talk in more depth of various seed dispersal methods. There could be many extensions to use with this book, such as the classic activity of putting an old sock over a leg and going for a hike to collect seeds. This can then be planted to see what "grows" from the walk. One year, my son didn't want to put the sock on his leg, so we made it into a little animal puppet that scampered through the meadow. This could be another way to include imaginative play as well. Additionally, I like to collect milkweed pods (with seeds) and cattails to experience wind dispersal of seeds with preschool and young elementary school children. It's a joy to watch them with the seeds, similar to the mesmerizing effects of chasing bubbles. We've been trying to gather and plant our milkweed seeds around the perimeters of our yard, hoping for more this next year. This Classroom Bookshelf website share various activities and extensions for use with the book. Great ideas! Additional activities can be found on the Growing with Science blog. This is a starting point to discover seed dispersal. Personally, I'd like to look at how ants disperse seeds more, which isn't included in the book. However, the book renews my interest and is a great way to share with young children. The sounds and action words help make it a good read

aloud. <http://insideoutsidemichiana.blogspot.com/2015/04/planting-wild-garden-book-review.html>

This is an amazingly illustrated book; it could be wordless. The first spread shows a mother and son planting seeds in a garden, the framing edges show what the plants will look like when grown, including underground views. "In the wild meadow garden, many seeds are planted too, but not by farmer's hands." Thus begins the story of how wild plants and trees grow: seeds are transported by wind, birds and other animals, popping out on their own, rain and streams of water, and even on the boots and clothing of people. Each spread of soft, natural colors has an entirely unique and intricate 'framing edge' which draws the reader back into the book over again. This book will be useful in the classroom and makes a wonderful gift for a favorite gardener.

Though my kindergartener has graduated to chapter books, we still check picture books out from

our local library. We are particularly enchanted by books with delightful illustrations, lyrical prose or verse, and a positive, inspiring message. In *Planting The Wild Garden*, the reader is initially introduced to a farmer and her boy, gently tending to planting in their garden. As the reader continues, the scene changes to one which depicts seeds being dispersed by nature - the wind, rain, birds, animals, and plants. The lush illustrations are painted in beautiful, earth-toned hues that truly enchant and hold the reader's attention. Perfect for reading aloud, and used in the classroom and home. This is a book that I think will be a classic - to be enjoyed by both the young and old, and makes an excellent addition to any home and school library.

In *Planting the Wild Garden*, the author does a great job of describing the magic of how the world around us comes alive with plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees, with the help of wildlife, the weather, and even humans. Seeds and nuts play the starring role throughout the story as they travel by whatever means available, eventually settling into their own special place to produce something wonderful. The story is a charming journey through a meadow, enhanced by lovely pastel watercolor illustrations that set a relaxing mood. The language is simple and descriptive, and easily read and understood by emerging readers; likewise, the read-aloud story will appeal to preschoolers with their eager curiosity about the world around us. A wonderful way to introduce children to the concepts of gardening! (Copy provided free to me by Peachtree Publishers)

This book is gorgeous. It's a wonderful addition to our second grade unit on planting and seeds. I highly recommend it for your school library.

This is an exploration on how seeds are transported through various means. Kathryn tell a brilliant story about how nature takes part in sowing seeds through animals, people and how wind scatters seeds by spilling them and sweeping them up into the sunlight and across the fields. A perfect picture book illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. I highly recommend this book. Book received free from Peachtree Publishers

My 4 year old enjoyed the book very much. Illustrations are very engaging, especially in the inserts showing plant details. It's a great spring read for children and adults.

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