

Veggie Bytes

Winter Edition

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Scarecrow Contest Winners!

Last issue of Veggie Bytes, we encouraged readers to participate in a scarecrow building contest. We wanted teachers and students to get creative and use non traditional items to decorate their scarecrow.



1st Place Winner: Kelly Moller's 3rd grade class at **Magnolia Woods Elementary**. Her class made a Louisiana scarecrow decorated with crawfish, Mardi Gras beads, and strawberry earrings made from egg cartons.

2nd Place Winner: Camp Sunshine Kids at Cohn Arboretum. They incorporated agriculture by using a spray tank to decorate their scarecrow. Kids were supervised by Ed Norred, the horticulture manager at Cohn Arboretum.

3rd Place Winner: Jennifer Howard and



Rick Hamilton's 4th grade class at **Shenandoah Elementary**. They made an eagle scarecrow to represent their school mascot.

What's Growing!

November

Directly Place Seed into the Garden

Beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, radishes, turnips, spinach, very early November south LA in North LA watch the weather...

Transplant into the Garden

Strawberries (early November only)

December

Directly Place Seed into the Garden

Beets and spinach

Start seeds indoors for mid January planting

Cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower

Plant Seedlings into the Garden

Onion (sets)

January

Directly Place Seed into the Garden (mid Jan)

Beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, radishes, turnips, Irish potatoes

Transplant into the Garden

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower beginning in mid-January



Growing Tips for Greens

- Plant lettuce, mustard green or collard green seeds now through mid-November
- Space seeds 3-6 inches apart for leaf lettuce, mustard and collard greens, Head lettuce needs a 12 inch spacing. Plant in full sun.
- Growing plants need fertilizer, but don't apply fertilizer too soon. Wait until plants are 2 inches tall. Sprinkle granular fertilizer about 6 inches away from the base of plants and water thoroughly.
- Begin harvesting small tender leaf lettuce leaves as they emerge for use in salads. Larger collard and mustard leaves should be harvested, for cooking.
- The main predator of greens is caterpillars. They love to eat the tender new growth. If you see them, pick them off.





Christmas cactuses are popular indoor houseplants that bloom during the winter season making it a favorite holiday gift. The Christmas cactus originates from the coastal mountains of Brazil and unlike their desert cousins these cactuses are epiphytic which means that they grow on top of trees or on the side of rocks instead of in the ground. In your own home Christmas cactuses like to live in bright indirect light and requires regular watering but allow the soil to dry out between watering.

Christmas Cactus propagation is really easy! Follow these easy steps...

Propagation

Step 1: Cut a three to four segmented piece off of your parent cactus.

Step 2: Allow your cutting to dry overnight.

Step 3: Fill a cup with potting soil and plant the cutting into the soil so that the bottom segment is completely covered by soil.

Step 4: Set the cutting in a bright window and water the cutting frequently, never allowing the soil to completely dry out. After a few weeks you should notice new roots forming at the bottom of the cutting and now you have a new Christmas cactus plant!



Gingerbread Fudge

Edible Ginger grows easily in Louisiana.

Locate a partial sunny location. Consider asking the principal if edible ginger can be incorporated into some of the landscape beds, since most veggie gardens are in full sun.

Gingers are planted by rhizomes (underground storage organs.) Simply plant ginger rhizomes 12-24 inches apart. One plant is plenty for a demonstration.

Where to find edible ginger? Look in the produce section of grocery stores! Buy the rhizomes, plant and enjoy!



INGREDIENTS

12 oz. white chocolate, melted
1 c. sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground ginger
Red and green sprinkles

INSTRUCTIONS

In large bowl, mix together melted white chocolate and condensed milk. Add nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Stir. Mix in sprinkles. Using a spatula, transfer fudge into parchment lined glass baking dish and smooth over top. Add remaining sprinkles to top of fudge. Let sit in fridge at least 1 hour. Cut into squares and enjoy!

- **Prolong the Life of Your Christmas Tree with these Tips:**
 - Choose a tree with as little brown needles as possible.
 - After selecting your tree, ask for a fresh cut on the trunk. A fresh cut will allow your tree to better take up water. (Like cut flowers)
 - Look for a cooler place in your home to showcase the tree. Avoid hot air blowing on it from heater vents.
 - Keep your Christmas tree watered! A fresh cut tree takes up lots of water. Its important to check the water level daily.



Addition

Farmer Brown has four hoses to water his garden, an 8 ft. hose, a 6 ft.

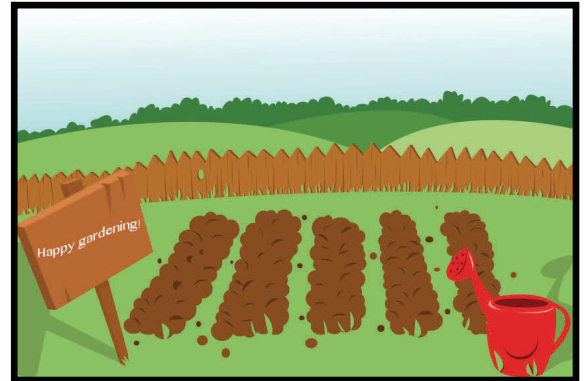
hose, a 5 ft. hose and a 3 ft. hose. What combination of hoses must he use in order to reach his garden that is 15 ft. away from the faucet?

**Subtraction**

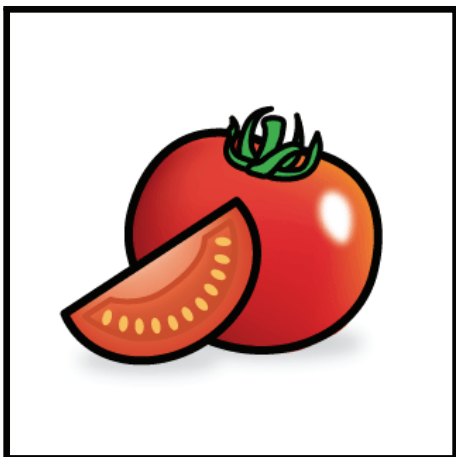
Farmer Brown is selling cabbage at the farmer's market. He has 40 cabbages for sale. Paul buys 13, Maggie buys 6 and Lisa buys 9. How many cabbages are left?

Multiplication

Farmer Brown has 35 spinach seeds to plant. He has already tilled 5 rows in his garden. How many spinach seeds should he plant in each row so that he doesn't have any leftover seeds?

**Division**

Farmer Brown has grown a huge tomato that he wants to eat with his family. He gives half of the tomato to his wife Dolly, he gives a quarter to his son Dale and he doesn't give any to Susie, his daughter. Susie doesn't like tomatoes. What fraction of the tomato is left for Farmer Brown to eat?



MATH IS FUN !

LSU AgCenter

Growing Gardens!

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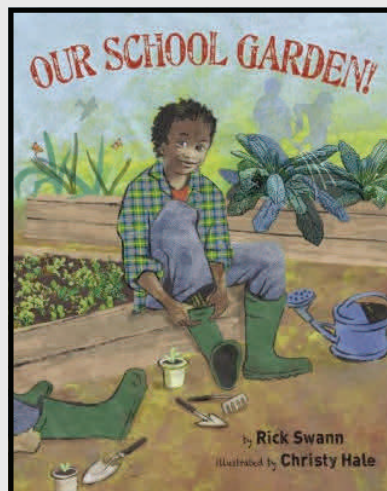
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Book Review!



New city. New school. Michael is feeling all alone—until he discovers the school garden! There’s so many ways to learn, and so much work to do. Taste a leaf? Mmm, nice and tangy hot. Dig for bugs? “Roly-poly!” he yells. But the garden is

much more than activities outdoors: making school garden stone soup, writing Found Poems and solving garden riddles, getting involved in community projects such as Harvest Day, food bank donations, and spring plant sales. Each season creates a new way to learn, explore, discover and make friends.

ISBN 9780983661504

Scarecrow Winner’s Prizes

1st Place will receive a 50 lb. bag of fertilizer, a rain gauge, a hummingbird feeder, 3 packets of hummingbird food, a metal hook to hang the hummingbird feeder from a tree, a 3 ft. watering wand, a year’s worth of seeds, and seed labels.

2nd Place will receive a rain gauge, a small watering wand, a year’s worth of seeds, and seed labels.

3rd Place will receive a spray nozzle, a year’s worth of seeds, and seed labels.

