








# Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Summer Squash Resource Page

[www.MaineAgintheClassroom.org](http://www.MaineAgintheClassroom.org)



## Activities & Resources:

-  [From Farm to You Coloring Sheet](#). This coloring sheet will accompany any lesson that explores the path food takes from farm to consumer. Students can color the image and then fold it to hide the consumers within the farm.
-  [How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear?](#) This elementary activity illustrates the wide array of career paths available in agriculture. Students will create a paper "pinwheel" illustration of the many hats that farmers wear.
-  [The Garden Show](#). *The Garden Show* is a 25-minute musical play for grades 1-5 that ties well with science curriculum. Students learn about soil, plants, photosynthesis, pollination, and garden creatures from a wild bunch of characters, including dive-bombing bees, aliens from planet Chlorophyll, and a singing compost pile.
-  [Weather Wisdoms](#). An elementary writing activity to supplement lessons on the weather. Students will learn how the folklore related to weather observation played a role in the growing of crops and raising animals many years ago.
-  University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin—[Vegetables and Fruits for Health: Zucchini and Summer Squash](#)

Teachers can register for a ***Harvest of Curricula*** to support Maine Farmers and producers, and harvest of the month! For Direct delivery to your inbox

**[Sign up here!](#)**



## Suggested MAITC Lesson Plans for Educators

(Aligned to State & National Standards)

[www.TeachMEFoodandFarms.org](http://www.TeachMEFoodandFarms.org)

**Squash**. Grades K-5. Students will be able to explain the history of squash and locate where it is grown on a Maine map. They will be able to explain what part of the plant squash is, the growing season and its nutritional benefits. Students will be able to explain how foods with vitamin A keep us healthy and write a persuasive letter that includes squash. Students will also be able to participate in composting activities.

**Plant, Harvest, Eat**. Grades 3-5. Students partner with a local farm to bring food full cycle, from seed to crops, from harvest to table. Students plant, grow and harvest food crops for the cafeteria and learn about the growing process in the classroom. After harvesting the school purchases the local produce from the farm and school nutrition experts whip up delicious recipes for all students to enjoy.

**Seed Germination Competition**. Grades 3-5. Students will sprout seeds in different conditions to learn how seeds germinate.

## Agriculture for ME



Funding from this Specialty License plate and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry supports teacher curriculum materials connecting classrooms to the HARVEST OF THE MONTH project! Please thank everyone you know with this plate!



# LESSONS FROM THE *National* Agriculture in the Classroom CURRICULUM MATRIX

Searchable directly from the MAITC Home page!



You can receive monthly resources from Maine Agriculture in the Classroom by signing up for our E-Newsletter [HERE](#)

## July is Summer Squash Month!

Check out these great Agriculture lessons from our National Ag Literacy Curriculum Matrix



[How Does Your Garden Grow?](#) Grades K-2. Students will understand the needs of a seed to germinate and the needs of a plant to grow while exploring the life stages of a flowering plant.

[Magic Beans and Giant Plants.](#) Grades 3-5. Students will plant seeds and make considerations on which conditions affect plant growth. They will design and conduct experiments using a problem-solving process and compare and contrast to understand the parameters which influence the health and growth of living things.

[The Rotten Truth.](#) Grades 3-5. Students will observe and explain the decomposition process and learn the methods and ingredients for making compost.

[Three Sisters Garden.](#) Grades 3-5. Students will investigate the "three sisters" crops (corn, beans, and squash) and explore the benefit to planting these crops together. Students will also learn about Native American Legends and plant growth.

[Plant Propagation.](#) Grades 6-8. Students will learn about two types of plant propagation – seed planting (sexual) and stem cuttings (asexual) and recognize the genetic differences in these processes, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

[Can We Have Too Much of a Good Thing?](#) Grades 6-8. In this lesson students will understand that plants require nutrients in the proper concentrations. Students will discover that plants can be damaged or killed by either too many or too few nutrients.

[Genetically Modified Organisms and Organic Foods.](#) Grades 9-12. Students will determine the presence of DNA in their food by extracting it from a strawberry. Then, students will compare and contrast GMOs and organic foods in order to evaluate the nutrition, safety, economic, geographic, and environmental impacts of these agricultural production practices.

[Chain of Food.](#) Grades 9-12. Students will explore the path food takes along the Farm-to-Table Continuum. They will begin on the farm and investigate food safety issues during processing, transportation, at restaurants and supermarkets, and finally, in their own homes. Teams will identify how food can become contaminated along the continuum and develop and present strategies for preventing contamination at each step.

## Great Books to use when teaching about Summer Squash!



## Videos



Summer Squash 101



Read Aloud: Zora's Zucchini



Zucchini Growing Tips



From the University of Maine Cooperative Extension: How to dry vegetables



From the University of Maine Cooperative Extension "Mainly Dish" Recipe Video