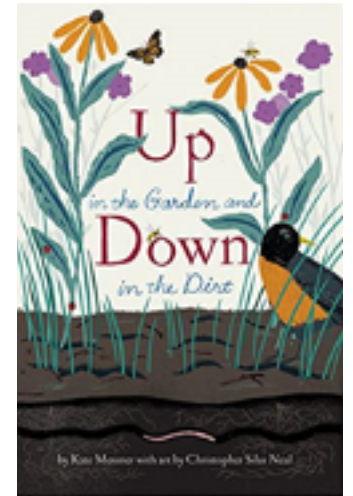


## Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

### UP IN THE GARDEN AND DOWN IN THE DIRT

*by Kate Messner*

A companion to the new *Over and Under the Pond* and the beloved *Over and Under the Snow*, this sweet exploration of the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year “could not be more lovely,” according to the *Washington Post*. Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home. In this exuberant and lyrical book, discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves...and down in the dirt.



To view this book on You Tube [click here](#).

### Fun Facts:

- \* There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth.
  - \* Soil is like a cake made from lots of different things. Soil consists of crumbling rock or sand, clay, dead plant and animal remains, fungi and even manure.
  - \* Plants need nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, copper and other elements to grow
  - \* It takes a lot of preparation to have a garden. For help planning a garden [click here](#).
- Many schools want to have a garden and UGA has a guide for school gardens. To see their tips [click here](#)  
There is always something to do and plant in a garden! To find out what you can plant or do each month [Click here](#).

### Videos

- \* Layers of Soil
- \* What's the dirt on... dirt?
- \* Georgia Farm Monitor- Gardening with Your Children Can be Fun and Educational

### Activities

- \* Mud Painting
- \* Start seeds in a milk carton
- \* A Fun Way for Kids to Plan a Garden
- \* Printable for the kids to make a garden plan
- \* Recipe-Edible Layers of Soil
- \* Recipe- Dirt Cups