

SEPTEMBER 2023

FARM
BUREAU
GEORGIA

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

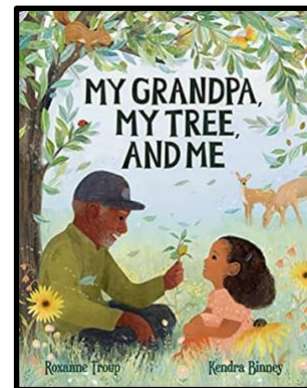
My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me

by Roxanne Troup

Of all the trees in Grandpa's orchard, one tree is his favorite--a pecan tree, planted for his granddaughter on the day she was born.

As the seasons change, the leaves unfurl and fall again while Grandpa tenderly cares for each tree in his orchard. Sometimes they need pruning, sometimes they need feeding. They all need harvesting, and the granddaughter loves watching the tractor hug the trees' trunks and shake until leaves and twigs and pecans rain down.

But not the child's tree--her tree is special. It is not a part of the orchard. It's for just the two of them and all the ways their relationship grows as they care for this special tree: tending its roots, harvesting its pecan treasures, and creating something delicious together.



Fun Facts:

- The name "pecan" is a Native American word that was used to describe nuts requiring a stone to crack.
- The pecan capital of the world is Albany, Georgia, which boasts more than 600,000 pecan trees.
- Pecan trees are native to North America and over 80% of the world's pecan crop comes from the United States.
- Pecan trees produce nuts on alternate bearing years – one year heavy, one year light.
- The pecan pie was created by French people who had settled in New Orleans. There are around 78 pecans in a pie!
- In 1995, Georgia pecan wood was selected by the Atlanta Committee to make the handles of the torches for the 1996 Olympic Games. The torches were carried in the 15,000-mile U.S.A. relay and in the lighting of the Olympic flame in Atlanta on July 19, 1996.
- In 2021 the pecan became the official state nut of Georgia!

Videos:

- Agventure: Visit with [Cason Anderson, a pecan farmer in Houston County \(coming soon\)](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Pecan Producers Having a Tough Harvest Season](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Hard Work Brings Success To Family Pecan Operation](#)
- [PECAN | How Does it Grow?](#)

Activities:

- Recipe: [No Bake Pecan Cream Pie](#)
- Recipe: [Maple Pecan Butter](#)
- [Pecan Coloring Page](#)
- [Pecan Bookmark](#)
- [Plant a Pecan Tree](#)
- [Teacher's Guide for the Book](#)
- [Nut Taste Test and Chart](#)
- [Sensory Exploration of Nuts and Seeds - using all 5 senses](#)
- [Lesson: Cracking Open the Story of Nuts Grades 3-5](#)
- [Lesson: In a Nutshell Grades 3-5](#)

Visit gfb.ag/aic for more activities