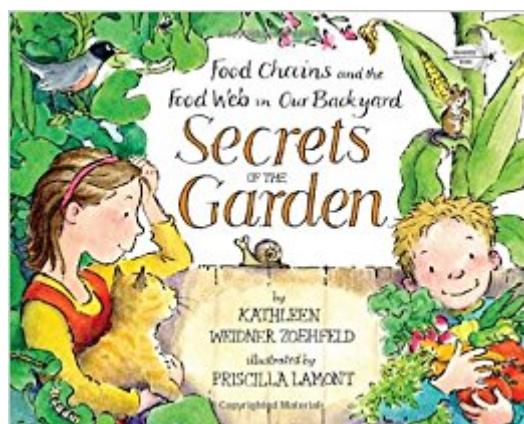


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# Secrets Of The Garden: Food Chains And The Food Web In Our Backyard



## **Synopsis**

Perfect for spring planting season--an outstanding book about backyard science the whole family will appreciate. Alice's family plants a vegetable garden each spring, and this budding naturalist reports all she sees about how the plants grow, what insects come to eat the plants, and what birds and animals come to eat the insects. It's the food chain, right in her own backyard! While Alice's narrative is simple and engaging, science concepts are presented in more depth in sidebars by a pair of very knowledgeable (and highly amusing) chickens! Noted science writer Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld knows how to layer information to make it accessible to a wide range of readers and useful for educators. And illustrator Priscilla Lamont's funny, friendly paintings make this a garden everyone will want to explore. Kids will eat up this wonderful book of backyard science--and perhaps they'll even be inspired to eat their vegetables! "A wonderfully informative and enjoyable journey through one family's backyard garden, from spring planting to fall harvest. . . . this is bound to spark some backyard explorations." *Kirkus, Starred Review* From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0610 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (April 8, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385753640

ISBN-13: 978-0385753647

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #646,991 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Gardening #352 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #8216 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review, School Library Journal, February 1, 2012: "The book will raise readers' awareness of backyard food chains and encourage some students to try gardening

themselves. •Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, November 15, 2011: "Zoehfeld's latest is a wonderfully informative and enjoyable journey through one family's backyard garden, from spring planting to fall harvest. Covering a dazzling array of topics, the author still manages to hold onto a story line that will draw readers in and allow them to experience both the good and the bad right along with narrator Alice. Sure to become a standard go-to for elementary teachers and gardeners alike, this is bound to spark some backyard explorations." Booklist, March 15, 2012: "A natural for young gardeners, this picture book is also an appealing addition to classroom units on food chains." Publishers Weekly, January 9, 2012: "Filled with humorous, cozy, and informative details. This intimate portrait of a single garden points to how all ecosystems are connected."

KATHLEEN WEIDNER ZOEHFELD was a children's book editor for more than 10 years before becoming a full-time writer. She has published more than 60 books for children, most about animals and natural history. PRISCILLA LAMONT has illustrated dozens of books, including the Animal Rescue Team books by Sue Stauffacher, and Goose and Duck by Jean Craighead George. Whether drawing human or animal characters, Priscilla always likes to include some humor.

This is a great book to introduce children to gardening. It has fun pictures, a good story line and informative facts about gardening from planting to harvesting, including pages about composting, worms helping garden, etc. My 3 year old grandson never tires of having this read to him. I also shared it with 2nd grade teachers who used it with their science unit on plants and plan to purchase it.

My grand daughter who loves to garden, she is especially good at watering, with her dad really enjoyed this book

Nice book for our 8 year old granddaughter. we are gardeners and she has showed interest in gardening.

The wonder of discovery - right outside the back door! I loved it!

I purchased this book to donate to our local children's storybook garden library, it has been a favorite with the children.

This is a good garden food chain story--great to use with young children to explain the inter-relationships of the life web.

This is a great book for kids learning about plants, gardens and food chains! It's a perfect mix of education and story. With beautiful pictures featuring a family and their cat, the whole family takes part from tilling the dirt to storing the harvest in the fall. Along the way, two cute chickens offer extra information that can be left out if just in the mood for the story. But, I loved saying, "what do the two cute chickens have to say?!" This book really is great because little kids (my daughter is 3) can appreciate many parts of it, but it will stay relevant for older kids as things like food chains. Definitely worth the small price.

Mom and Dad gathered their family around them and went outside to check for the signs of spring. Alice smiled and she held some daffodils in her hand and her brother, Pete, looked toward the robin sitting on her perch in a tree. Daisy and Maisy, their two chickens, were wandering in the yard. It was getting warmer and soon it would be "time to plant the garden." Dad prepared the soil and the children began to plant lettuce, carrots, peas, and beets. Would they plant some catnip for their cat, Honey? Daisy and Maisy knew all about composting and that "old leaves and vegetable scraps--along with a little poop from [their] coop" were good for the plants. Day after day, Alice and Pete watched the soil to see if any of their seeds had sprouted. Soon the sprouts were seen and Pete excitedly called for his sister to come see them. Each one of the sprouts looked different. Soon they became seedlings and the garden was on its way. Mom began to plant her potted seedlings and she put "potatoes the size of marbles in the ground." Everything in the garden was connected to nature and they would soon learn why. This book is a marvelous way for children to learn about nature and food chains. Set up in a picture book format, this tale is fun to follow and an easy way to learn about the wonders of nature. The two chickens, Daisy and Maisy, are a dynamic, comical duo who lecture about the garden and how it connects to the food chain and food web. For example, they have a chart and point out a variety of herbivores, carnivores, and tell us why they are omnivores. The whimsical, charming artwork is detailed and meshes well with the tale. I especially liked the panel of worms cultivating the soil. The maze-like tunnels have text and the reader needs to turn the book this way and that to read it. This is an amazing garden learning experience that would be a perfect addition to any homeschool or classroom shelves you might want to add to your list!

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