

# Plant Your Own *Secret* Garden



*Did you know plants have SECRETS? But these secrets are meant for sharing! Plant your own balloon garden and see what grows!*

- Ingredients:**
- Seeds (you can buy these from your local farm stand, grocery store, or flower shop)
  - A clear balloon
  - Soil and water
  - A small funnel
  - A piece of string



## How to plant your own SECRET garden:

1. Hold the balloon upside down and insert the spout of the funnel into the opening of the balloon.
2. Pour soil into the balloon through the funnel until the balloon is about half full.
3. Pour a small amount of water through the funnel until the soil is wet but not muddy.
4. Dry the funnel and then slide the seeds through.
5. Keeping the balloon upside down, blow up the balloon and tie it tight.
6. Tie the string around the balloon and use the string to hang the balloon garden near a window.
7. See what SECRETS grow in your garden.
8. Share with your friends and family!

# The life cycles of a plant:

## Seed

A seed is a packet holding a young plant and food for the plant to use as it sprouts. We know peas best in their seed stage.

## Plant

Once it has sprouted, a plant can make its own food from sunlight. People and animals cannot do this. We know oak trees best in their plant stage.

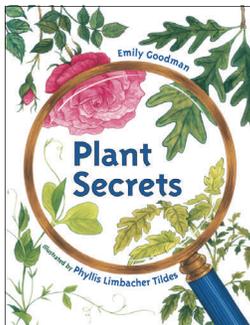
## Flower

Flowers help the plant reproduce. When we think of a flower, we usually picture its petals. But other parts of the flower can grow into a fruit after the petals fall off. We know roses best in their flower stage.

## Fruit

A fruit is a container for new seeds. Some containers are soft and good to eat. Animals eat them and drop the seeds on the ground. Other containers are hard. They protect the seeds through hot and cold weather until they're ready to grow. We know tomatoes best in their fruit stage.

**In the space below, draw the life cycle of plants as they grow from seed, to plant, to flower, to fruit, and back to seed.**



ISBN: 978-1-58089-204-9 • \$16.95 • HC  
ISBN: 978-1-58089-205-6 • \$7.95 • PB  
Ages 4–7

### Look for the **SECRET** hidden inside . . .

Simple text and colorful illustrations show the major phases of plant growth: seed, plant, flower, and fruit. Back matter offers more information on each plant, as well as on each stage of growth.