

## **"Growing Good Kids<sup>sm</sup> – Excellence in Children's Literature" 2026 Book Awards Program**

The Junior Master Gardener® Program and the American Horticultural Society honor engaging, inspiring works of garden and ecology-themed children's literature through the "Growing Good Kids<sup>sm</sup> - Excellence in Children's Literature Awards" Program.

*>> If your book meets the criteria described below, you may nominate a title by filling out one copy of the nomination form (see below) for each nomination. Send the form and one copy of the nominated book to Randy L. Seagraves, the liaison to the Growing Good Kids Book Awards Committee. If your nomination is accepted, you will be invited to forward a copy of the title to each of the nine members of the book award committee.*

*There is no limit to the number of books any one publisher can nominate for the award.*

### **Requirements for consideration for the 2026 Growing Good Kids Annual Book Award**

- **Books must be published in 2025**
- *Only picture books will be considered.*
- *Books must be original editions or have been significantly revised and updated.*
- *Nominations must be received by May 1, 2026.*

***Award winners are selected from children's picture books, which are plant, gardening plant and ecology- themed. The criteria for selection encompass two primary areas:***

#### **1. The power of *the story* to:**

- engage children
- effectively promote an understanding of and appreciation for gardening/plants and the environment
- convey a positive message effectively

#### **2. The power of the illustration/design to:**

- appeal to children
- represent the story effectively
- promote an understanding of and appreciation for gardening/plants and the environment

Other criteria considered include originality, cultural diversity, "timelessness," scientific accuracy of realistic portrayals, and the physical quality of the publication.





## **2026 Growing Good Kids<sup>sm</sup> Book Award Nomination Form**

*(for titles published in 2025)*

*Date of Nomination:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Title of book:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Author(s):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Illustrator:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Year published:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Publisher name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Publisher address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Publisher contact person:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send the completed nomination form and one copy of the nominated book to: Randy L. Seagraves. If title meets requirements, you will then be invited to forward one copy of the book to each member of the Growing Good Kids Book Awards Committee— contact shipping information of the 10-member committee will be provided at that time.*

If you have any questions about the *Growing Good Kids - Excellence in Children's Literature Book Awards*, a program of the Junior Master Gardener Program and American Horticultural Society, contact:



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