Longwood Gardens Community Read 2020
Additional Readings Middle School

We encourage you to continue reading books about plants. Here are some suggestions for plant-based science fiction, and some books about unusual plants. You can find these titles at public libraries and local bookstores in your community.

**Astronuts** / by Jon Scieszka, illustrations by Steven Weinberg (2019)

AstroWolf, LaserShark, SmartHawk, and StinkBug are animals that have been hybridized to find other planets for humans to live on once we’ve ruined Earth. So off they rocket to the Plant Planet! Will that planet support human life? Or do Plant Planet’s inhabitants have a more sinister plan? Grades 4-7 ([www.chroniclebooks.com](http://www.chroniclebooks.com))

**Peligro Vegetal** / by Ramon Caride (1995)

Para Said y Sheila es muy sospechoso que haya tan poca información disponible sobre el supercereal SC-1, la planta que se supone que acabará con el hambre en el mundo. A partir de 10 años. ([https://www.anayainfantilyjuvenil.com](https://www.anayainfantilyjuvenil.com))

**Perfectly Peculiar Plants** / by Chris Thorogood (2018)

This exuberant celebration of the weird and wonderful world of plants is full of unexpected facts, perfect for budding botanists and armchair art lovers alike. A vibrant, close-up exploration of plants, this colorful book focuses on the extraordinary and unexpected, from the tiny bee orchid to the mighty strangler fig. Grades 5-7. ([https://www.quartoknows.com](https://www.quartoknows.com))

**Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln’s Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities** / by Amy Stewart (2009)

A tree that sheds poison daggers; a glistening red seed that stops the heart; a shrub that causes paralysis; a vine that strangles; and a leaf that triggered a war. Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature’s most appalling creations in an A to Z of plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, and otherwise offend.

Menacing botanical illustrations and splendidly ghastly drawings create a fascinating portrait of the evildoers that may be lurking in your own backyard. Drawing on history, medicine, science, and legend, this compendium of bloodcurdling botany will entertain, alarm, and enlighten even the most intrepid gardeners and nature lovers. Grades 7+ ([https://www.amystewart.com](https://www.amystewart.com))