

## **Gardening and Kids – It’s Not Really About the Kids at all.**

*We all need stories, and simply showing kids plants is often not enough to keep their interest. Everyone loves stories, and all kids love to touch, smell, and taste. Here are some plants with stories that you can grow at home, show the plant, tell the story and believe me, they will tell their friends.*

Veggies are surely a way in, let’s start with:

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But there is so much more: What can we appeal to?

A sense of Wonder: *Let’s start by planting a fairy tale –*

What other senses do kids respond to?

Sight: *Kids love plants that look back at them*

Bat Face & Candy Corn - Cuphea

The Eyeball plant - Spilanthes

Taste: *The weirder, the better*

Eyeball plant - Spilanthes

Stevia

Ornamental pepper

Feel: *Up close and personal*

Lamb’s ears

Imagination: *Never underestimate a child’s imagination*

Flaming Bat Face

Butterfly vine

Wonder: *A bit of wow factor*

Potato vine

Elephant ears – sense of “huge”

Dutchman’s Pipe – sense of “weird”

Smell: *Probably the sense that lingers the longest*

Dutchman’s pipe

Voodoo lily

Heliotrope

French lavender

Lemon verbena

Regal Lily – a story

Patience: *Waiting for nightfall*

Moonflower

Tina James magic primrose

How about a bit of history: *Maybe not as exciting as Tina James but it is amazing how much kids remember*

Joe Pye  
Queen Anne's Lace  
Bloodroot

Simply fun: *No reason but fun with these plants*  
Hyacinth bean  
Musical note plant

What's in a name: *They won't forget these stories*  
Balloon flower  
Snapdragon  
Impatiens

And finally  
Another gourd

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### Hanging out with Dr A

*Books:* Newest book, *Herbaceous Perennial Plants, 4<sup>th</sup> ed*  
Most popular book: *Of Naked Ladies & Forget-Me-Nots*  
Most interesting book: *Legends in the Garden, Who in the World is Nellie Stevens?*

**If purchased by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, free postage** with the code GMGA when ordering. Good for all books on the website. Books can be personalized & signed.  
*Go to [www.allanarmitage.net](http://www.allanarmitage.net)*

*Armitage's App: **Armitage's Great Garden Plants.*** For gardeners, landscapers, designers and anyone who touches plants. - \$4.99.

*YouTube channel: **[www.youtube.com/armitagevideos](http://www.youtube.com/armitagevideos)**:* A large and good range of videos about these and many other plants that have caught my eye. Short and insightful

*On-line classes: **Perennials for the Sun** and **Perennials for the Shade** -* classes for the "world" with audio, in-depth discussions of science and plant genera, and on-line tests. For in service training, industry and plant people. Info on website. Go to website to enroll.

*Website: **[www.allanarmitage.net](http://www.allanarmitage.net)**,* Books, videos, classes, engagements, app, etc all in one place.