

## Fourth Week of May

Get Local @ School Product of the Month = Strawberries

### What's Growing?



To harvest sweet potatoes when school resumes in August, plant sweet potato slips in late May before students leave. Slips are sweet potato sprouts that are planted in the ground and grow new sweet potato plants. If you order them from a seed catalogue by mail, they may arrive wilted, and possibly pale green from shipping. This is fine. If unable to plant right away, place slips upright in a container, and keep the roots damp with wet newspaper. They will perk up and be fine for a few days. Plant 3-4" deep 12-18" apart.

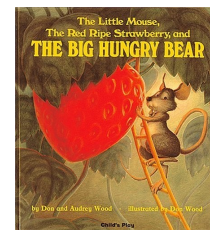
### Activities

Visit the Growing Minds website for more ways to connect Farm to School with curriculum:  
[www.growing-minds.org](http://www.growing-minds.org)

- ◆ Use a seed packet or seed catalogue research and calculate how much space you need to grow 10 tomato plants. How much do you need to grow 100?
- ◆ Strawberries are the only fruit with seeds on the outside. Guide students in making a class prediction on how many seeds are on each strawberry. (One average sized strawberry has about 200 seeds on it.) To help students visualize amounts, help them count out their predictions in pennies or pieces of dried pasta. Do they want to change their predictions?

### Farm to School Book of the Week

The Big Hungry Bear  
by Don Wood



In this book, the narrator follows a mouse's every move as he picks a strawberry and tries to keep it from the ominous Big Hungry Bear.

After disguising the strawberry, hiding it, and putting it under lock and key, the narrator suggests the *best* way to make sure the bear doesn't get it: "cut it in half, give me the other half, and eat it!" Told from an interesting point of view, the reader feels like part of the story.

### Journal Topics

Encourage students to write on one of the following topics:

Read *The Big Hungry Bear* and have students write a story from the perspective of the bear.

Go out to the garden and brainstorm the insects that might live there. Write a letter to one of the insects asking it anything that you would like to know about it.

The mouse in *The Big Hungry Bear* is worried about the bear that never appears in the book. Write a description or draw a picture of what you think the bear looks like.

### Get Local recipe:

#### Strawberry Soup with Honey

##### Ingredients

1 quart local strawberries, hulled and halved  
3 tablespoons local honey  
2/3 cup yogurt  
1/2 cup fresh orange juice

Makes 4 small bowls or a taste for 10 children.



##### Steps

1. Slice and set aside about 8 strawberries for garnish.
2. Remove the tops and half the rest of the strawberries.
3. Toss the halved strawberries with honey. Let sit for 15 minutes.
4. Mix in a blender until smooth.
5. Whisk in the yogurt and orange juice, adding extra sweetener if needed.
6. Serve in bowls with sliced berries sprinkled on top.