



Theme Two: The Living Soil-The Living Plant

We Are All Interconnected and Related.

Theme Two explores our connections to the living soil and plants that make life possible. Our very survival on Earth depends on our knowledge and care of the soil ecosystem. The Latin words *humus*, soil/earth, and *homo*, human being, have a common derivation, from which we also get our word “humble.” The soil is the great connector of our lives, the source of all food, fiber, seed, and oxygen production from the land. As children work in the school garden, they discover the connections and relationships they have with the living world, both seen and unseen. It is through these relationships that they become more engaged with learning and begin to care about preserving and protecting the Earth and themselves. Many of the sciences can be explored and discovered in the garden: soil biology, botany, entomology, hydrology, zoology, earth sciences, climatology, geography, and ecology are found in “gardenology.” The naturalist John Muir once said, “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” So it is in the school garden.