



Snowy Science

Complete an experiment to see how much water is in snow and learn how snow helps farmers and gardeners.



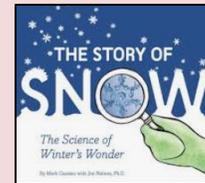
Snow has many benefits for farms and gardens.
“A good winter with snow makes all the plants grow.”



- Crops and garden plants need water and nutrients to grow. It is easy to see that snow increases the amount of moisture in the soil, but it may surprise you to learn that it also increases nutrients. Nitrogen in the atmosphere attaches to snowflakes as they fall which provides an extra boost of nutrients to the soil!
- Snow prevents extreme cold temperatures from harming plants. A blanket of snow can actually raise the soil's surface temperature. Snow is mostly air surrounded by a little frozen water. Despite how cold it feels to the skin, it provides insulation and protection for winter crops such as wheat, oats, and rye. Without snow, very cold temperatures can freeze the soil deeper and deeper which can lead to root damage.

To read more about the ways that snow can help farmers click [here](https://tinyurl.com/yx8o39g8).
<https://tinyurl.com/yx8o39g8>

To read more about the benefits of snow in the garden click [here](https://tinyurl.com/yyaa7fxp).
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Recommended Ag Literature:

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder
by Mark Cassino

How Much Water is in Snow?

An Experiment for a Snowy Day

Materials:

- a glass measuring cup, glass, or jar
- snow
- a dry erase marker (or two rubber bands)

Procedures:

1. Fill the glass container to the top with snow. Pack in as much snow as you can fit!
2. Bring the container of snow inside where it is warm.
3. With the marker, draw a line on the outside of the container showing how much water you predict will be left in the jar after the snow melts. (You can use a rubber band around the jar to mark this line if you do not have a marker.) *Remember: Snow is mostly air surrounded by a little frozen water.*
4. Wait for the snow to melt. Were you surprised? Was your prediction close?

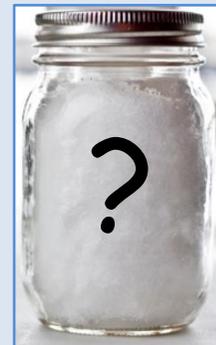


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