



## A HIDDEN SURPRISE

Fuzzy brown kiwifruit might look plain on the outside, but inside: surprise! They are brilliant green or yellow and filled with tiny black seeds. In fact, each kiwifruit holds at least 500 seeds – good thing they're edible! Kiwifruit – skin, seeds, and all – are a healthy snack.



## KIWIFRUIT CLOSER TO HOME

If you've ever travelled, you might have noticed that the plants you see when you're on a trip aren't the same as the ones you know from home. That's because different places have different growing conditions. Each type of plant has an ideal set of growing conditions: temperature, daylight hours, and moisture. These need to be just right for a plant to grow.

In Chile or New Zealand, where the climate is mild, you might see lots of kiwifruit vineyards. In most of BC, our winters are too cold for kiwifruit plants to survive. But, wait! Today, you can snack on one grown right here in BC. Not too long ago, a farmer in the Fraser Valley tried growing kiwifruit and it worked. Now we can enjoy kiwifruit grown closer to home!



## HOW KIWIFRUIT GROWS ...

- On winding, woody vines supported by trellises
- In long rows, like the plants in grape vineyards
- Quickly – the vines climb over 2 metres every summer
- From small, white flowers that appear in the spring and produce fruit in the fall

## WHAT KIWIFRUIT NEEDS ...

- A long, warm growing season
- Cool winters so the vine can rest (but not too cold)
- Lots of sunshine
- Plenty of water from rain or irrigation in the soil
- Bees to pollinate the flowers



## EXTREME WEATHER WARNINGS! BC FARMERS ON ALERT



Farming depends on weather. The right kind of weather can make a farmer's job easier. But, when weather is different and harsher than what it should be, it's even harder for a farmer to make a living. Weather forecasts help farmers plan their tasks and prepare for trouble like:



### HEAVY RAINS

Cause crop-damaging floods



### HEAVY WINDS

Knock down plants and blow away soil



### HAIL & FREEZING RAIN

Damage less-hardy crops



### FROST

Ruins fruit or tender spring shoots



### HEAT WAVES & DROUGHTS

Dry up soil and crops



### EXTREME COLD & BLIZZARDS

Harm resting fruit trees and vines

Kiwifruit are a challenging crop to grow in BC's climate. However, a few farmers in the Fraser Valley ([www.petkovkiwi.com](http://www.petkovkiwi.com)) and on Vancouver Island grow kiwifruit, so students are able to enjoy a BC-grown variety as part of the BCSFVNP.

## ACTIVITY: HARD WORK → PAYS OFF

Curriculum Connection: Career Education - grades 1 to 3: Identify and appreciate their personal attributes, skills, interests, and accomplishments. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

It's hard work to grow kiwifruit. Growers care for their plants through managed bee pollination, pruning, canopy management, irrigation, soil testing, fertilizing, mulching, vine training along trellises, fruit thinning, and careful hand-harvesting.

Emphasize to students that learning is a lifelong journey. The steps they take today will help them achieve their future goals. With a partner or in a large group, have students discuss the meaning of the phrase "hard work pays off." On the whiteboard, list some "hard work" ideas on the left, with an arrow pointing to the way they will pay off on the right. Ask students to add more ideas.

Hard Work (steps)	→	Pays Off (goals)
Piano practice	→	Playing music
Hockey practice	→	Playing hockey
Math flash cards	→	Knowing number facts
Kiwi farmer	→	Harvesting kiwifruit

## ACTIVITY: WHAT'S THE FORECAST, MR. WEATHER?

Curriculum Connection: Physical and Health Education - grades 1 to 3: Develop and apply a variety of fundamental movement skills in a variety of physical activities and environments.

Teachers: this game is an adaptation of "What time is it, Mr. Wolf?"

One student is chosen to be Mr. Weather and stands at one end of the gym. The other students line up at the other end. Mr. Weather turns his back to begin the game. The students call out, "What's the forecast, Mr. Weather?", and Mr. Weather answers with an adjective and a temperature:

snowy and 0 degrees [students take no steps]  
 rainy and 4 degrees [students take 4 steps forward]  
 cloudy and 8 degrees [students take 8 steps forward]  
 windy and 12 degrees [students take 12 steps forward]  
 sunny and 18 degrees [students take 18 steps forward]

Once the students get close to Mr. Weather, he shouts, "Harvest time!", and chases them back to the starting line with the aim of catching one, who will then become Mr. Weather for the next round of the game.

## MATH QUESTION

Curriculum Connection: Mathematics - grades 1 to 3: Represent mathematical ideas in concrete, pictorial, and symbolic forms.

If the ingredients below make one batch of Tactile Kiwi Slime, ask students to calculate how much of each ingredient they would need if they wanted to make a batch of slime for every member of their family. Discuss why they think this is called Tactile Kiwi Slime. Ask them what *tactile* means and how this word could be associated with ripe kiwis.

### Ingredients

250 ml white glue  
 2-4 drops green food colouring  
 5 ml chia seeds  
 2 drops essential oil (optional)  
 5 ml baking soda  
 30-45 ml contact lens saline solution

### Directions

1. Pour glue, food colouring, chia seeds, and essential oil (optional) into a bowl. Mix thoroughly.
2. Add baking soda and stir. Then, add 30 mL saline solution.
3. Mix until a ball forms. Knead by hand until smooth (if slime is particularly sticky, add another 15 mL of saline solution).
4. Store in an airtight container.

### KEEN KIWI VOCABULARY

**Tactile:** relating to the sense of touch.

**Vine:** a plant with a long stem that grows along the ground or climbs trees or trellises with its tendrils.

**Weather:** what the sky and the air outside are like. Weather can be described as windy or calm, hot or cold, wet or dry, clear or cloudy.



### FAMILY CONNECTION

Suggest that students make the Tactile Kiwi Slime at home. Did their families like the way the slime felt in their hands?