

## Chapter 9      Jack Sprout Visits Aunt Gerry & Uncle Dale

I got back on the Trail in the East Woods, but I didn't go home. I went straight to see Grandma Ermal Elderberry!

“What's the problem Jack Sprout? You look a little down on your luck.”

“How'd you know?” I asked.

“Well your ears are dragging on the ground for one thing.”

“I just came from the honey farm. I learned all about the job the honeybees do for our meadow. I would've never known anything about bees or pollination without Aunt Gerry and Uncle Dale.”

“I've learned so much from you, Early Worm, Pierre Le Tru, Fred Beaver, Sawdust Miller, Barley Miller, Farmer Smith, Oliver Otter, Captain Berry and everybody else here in Beaver Creek Meadow. I wouldn't know what to do if it wasn't for all of you. What else is there to know? I'll never make it!”

“Now just hold on there for a minute, Mr. Jack Sprout! Don't you get all droopy-ears on me! I've been around too long to let a little ear draggin' worry me. I've seen the good times and the bad times and the good times always win. You're just a little nervous about getting started. What did I tell you to do if you ever lost

your confidence? Remember what I told you the night you left Farmer Smith's sunflower field?"

"Yes I do, Grandma Elderberry. You said if I ever lost my confidence, to remember where I came from. Remember growing up in Farmer Smith's sunflower field and what plants need to survive. Just go back to my roots and everything would work out okay."

"That's right, you just think about those early days and you'll be fine."

"Yeah, now I can remember honeybees flying around our sunflower field when I was growing up. I didn't know they were carrying pollen around."

"Of course you didn't; you were too young. But now you know," she said as she put her hand on my shoulder. "Now go out there and show us what you can do Jack Sprout!"