

4-H FLORICULTURE GUIDELINES

Helping youth develop life skills is part of the goal of 4-H. The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in the floriculture project area.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS

Gain an appreciation of plants and our environment

Learn how to grow plants indoors and outdoors.

Be able to identify common flowers and plants.

Learn how to propagate plants.

Learn about qualities and things to look for when buying seeds or plants.

Explore floriculture as a hobby or career.

Some indoor gardening recommendations, a game and teaching aids, are available through the Cooperative Extension Service.

Learn to make a variety of floral arrangements, corsages, plaques, dish gardens & terrariums.

For the fair, classes for flowers are divided into young, junior and senior categories.

The Young category is 9-11; Junior is 12-14; Senior is 15-19. Flower arranging and indoor gardening classes are not divided by age or skill level. The exhibit displayed by the member should reflect his/her age and amount of experience in the project area. Silk flowers are divided by year in project.

EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES

(These are some skills and ideas to cover at various age levels. Please do not feel limited to the activities listed below.)

Young

- A. Grow and care for some of the common annual flowers and easy to grow house plants.
- B. Learn some of the fundamentals involved in growing plants (soil preparation, fertilizing, planting, thinning, transplanting, watering, etc.)
- C. Identify common kinds of plants and flowers.
- D. Learn about plant parts and their functions.
- E. Visit a greenhouse or garden center.
- F. Learn requirements of living house plants.
- G. If desired, learn fundamentals of arranging flowers, making corsages, plaques, dish gardens or terrariums.

Junior

- A. Grow and care for more difficult house plants and annual or perennial flowers or out door bulbs.
- B. Identify additional kinds and varieties of plants and bulbs.
- C. Make a garden plan that includes the location and spacing of plants in relation to each and to surrounding plants, buildings, fences, driveways, etc.
- D. Learn how to tell the quality of seeds and plants.
- E. Learn about specific groups of plants such as herbs, annuals, biennials perennials,

- tender and hardy bulbs. Compare different kinds and varieties of annuals.
- F. Propagate plants by seeds, spores, cuttings, grafting, budding, layering, division, etc.
- G. Learn requirements of additional house plants.
- H. Increase skills in flower arranging, making corsages, plaques, dish gardens or terrariums.

Senior

- A. Grow and care for a wider selection of plants and more difficult kinds of annuals, perennials or bulbs.
- B. Learn how to combine different types of plants together in a border or planter around a home or apartment.
- C. Learn about gardening in containers.
- D. Compare different plants, seeds and supplies from various companies or sources.
- E. Learn about buying and selling plants and plant products.
- F. Learn how to use plants indoors in different ways.
- G. Learn more about the indoor culture of plants: watering, fertilizing, humidity, artificial lighting, grooming, growing media, temperature, etc.
- H. Force bulbs such as tulip, crocus, hyacinth, amaryllis, and paperwhite narcissus into flower.
- I. Compare different kinds and varieties of annuals, perennials and bulbs.
- J. Increase skills in flower arranging, making corsages, plaques, dish gardens or terrariums.

4-H FAIR CLASSES FOR FLORICULTURE

General Information:

1. No more than one entry per class. Members to exhibit in their appropriate age section.
2. An exhibit that does not meet the established criteria for a class will be dropped one grade.
3. Attach index card to exhibit tag if member is disabled or has reached his/her capability. Use card to briefly explain this.

DIVISION - FLOWERS

1. Exhibits to be grown by exhibitors.
2. No borrowed or purchased exhibits to be included.
3. Exhibited specimens should have foliage left on above the water line and removed below the water line.
4. Foliage of all exhibits must be clean.
5. A spike is one stalk with no less than 3 flowers open.
6. It is recommended that exhibits be made in narrow-necked bottles, that are not taller than half the length of the stem of specimens exhibited. When more than one kind is required for a class, flowers may be exhibited in same container.

SECTION - YOUNG EXHIBITOR

- * Annual Flowers - Exhibit two different kinds of annual flowers. For each kind, if over 3 1/2" diameter, exhibit one flower. Under 3 1/2", exhibitor should show three stems.

SECTION - JUNIOR EXHIBITOR

- * Annual Flowers - Exhibit three different kinds of annual flowers. See size specifications under Young Exhibitor of annual flowers.
- * Perennial Flowers - Exhibit one kind. If over 3 1/2" diameter exhibit one flower. Under 3 1/2" diameter, exhibit three flowers. When a stem has more than one bloom, all under 3 1/2", exhibitor should show three stems.
- * Outdoor Bulbs - Exhibit one spike or one kind. (Glad., Dahlia, etc.)

SECTION - SENIOR EXHIBITOR

- * Annual Flowers - Exhibit five different kinds of annual flowers. See size specifications under Young Exhibitor.
- * Perennial Flowers - Exhibit three different kinds of perennial flowers. See size specifications under Junior Exhibitor.
- * Outdoor Bulbs - Exhibit one spike each of two different kinds of outdoor bulbs.

DIVISION - FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

1. Flowers made and exhibited in Division 4 cannot be used in this division. Members will not need to make arrangements at fair.
 - * Flower arrangement using flowers and plant material grown by exhibitor.
 - * Flower arrangement using purchased flowers.
 - * Flower arrangement using purchased artificial, silk, or dried flowers.
 - * Home decorating pieces (wall hanging, candle rings, plaques, etc.)
 - * Corsages
 - * Dried Corsages
 - * Wreaths
 - * Any Other

DIVISION - INDOOR GARDENING

1. Exhibits to be in exhibitor's care at least three months prior to the fair.
2. Exhibits may be shown more than one year.
3. Members should not cover clay pots with aluminum foil.
 - * Foliage House Plants
 - * Flowering House Plants
 - *Terrariums or dish gardens made by exhibitor

DIVISION - SILK FLOWERS (See specific guidelines for more information)

1. Flowers judged in this division cannot be used in division 2.
 - * 1st Year - Exhibit 2 stems of 2 different kinds of flowers made by member.
 - * 2nd Year - Exhibit arrangement using flowers made, judged equally on construction and arrangement.
 - * 3rd Year and Above - Exhibit arrangement using flowers made. Should be more complex each year; make different types of flowers each year. Judged equally on construction and arrangement.