

4-H HORTICULTURE GUIDELINES

Helping youth develop life skills is part of the goal of 4-H. The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in the horticulture 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 horticultural plants.
- Learn how to propagate plants.
- Learn about qualities and things to look for when buying seeds or plants.
- Explore horticulture as a hobby or career.

For the fair, classes for home garden products are divided into Young, Junior and Senior categories. The Young category is 9-11; Junior is 12-14; Senior is 15-19.

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, easy-to-grow plants.
- B. Learn some of the fundamentals involved in growing plants (soil preparation, fertilizing, planting, thinning, transplanting, pruning, etc.)
- C. Identify common varieties of plants.
- D. Learn about plant parts and their functions.
- E. Learn about the parts of a seed, how seeds germinate, and requirements for germination.
- F. Learn how to conduct simple experiments with seeds.

Junior

- A. Grow and care for more difficult plants.
- B. Learn about additional fundamentals involved in horticulture production. (Watering, pest control, picking and harvesting time, seed and plant sources, etc.)
- C. Identify additional kinds and varieties of plants.
- D. Make a garden plan that includes the location and spacing of plants in relation to each other and to surrounding plants, buildings, fences, driveways, etc.
- E. Learn how to tell the quality of seeds and plants.
- F. Learn how environmental factors affect plant growth (such as light, temperature, moisture, soil type, etc.) Learn about specific groups of plants, such as warm season and cool season vegetables, perennial vegetables, ornamental vegetables, and small and tree fruits
- G. Compare different varieties of the same vegetable.

Senior

- A. Grow and care for a wider selection of plants.
- B. Learn about gardening in containers.
- C. Compare different plants, seeds and supplies from various companies or sources.
- D. Compare different varieties of the same vegetable.
- E. Learn about buying and selling plants, vegetables and fruits.

4-H FAIR CLASSES FOR VEGETABLES

General Information:

1. Exhibits to be grown by exhibitor. No borrowed or purchased exhibits to be included.
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.
4. Judging is based on freedom of injury, growth, quality, condition and uniformity.
5. Varieties should be listed on back of entry tag.
6. The number of specimens of one kind and variety of vegetables to exhibit is:
1 specimen: Cabbage, cantaloupe, cauliflower, egg plant, pumpkin, winter squash, watermelon
3 specimen: Rutabagas, summer squash, zucchini
5 specimen: Beets, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, kohlrabi, okra, dry onions, parsnips, peppers, potatoes, radish, salsify, sweet potatoes, tomatoes (except cherry), turnips.
12 specimen: Green or wax beans, lima beans, brussel sprouts, peas, cherry tomatoes.
1 bunch: Broccoli, Green onion
7. Refer to the bulletin "Selecting Vegetables For Exhibit," number 4-H 1175, for guidance on selection, growing and displaying vegetables.

SECTION - HOME GARDEN

- * **Young:** One 9" plate of one variety of one kind of vegetable.
- * **Junior:** Three 9" plates of three different kinds of vegetables. Specimens limited to one variety per plate.
- * **Senior:** One box of at least six but not more than ten kinds of vegetables.
- * One box containing sample commercial garden crop of 1 variety of vegetables.

SECTION - OTHER HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS

- * Plant Science: Charts, photography, written reports with models to show activities performed or show articles made or collected.
- * Other horticultural projects - such as fruits, nuts, landscaping, etc.