

4-H HORTICULTURE PROJECT



Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Give a presentation on garden tools or techniques
- Make a video on how to make a water garden
- Teach your club how to identify common garden weeds

Citizenship

- Plant a flower bucket for the fairgrounds
- Adopt a flower bed at a park
- Make a compost bed for a community garden
- Help an elderly or disabled person by planting flowers in their yard

Leadership

- Organize a flower/vegetable sale to raise money for a special cause or for your 4-H club
- Teach a WIC class on using garden produce
- Volunteer to host a stop on a garden tour

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

Are You Into It?

How does your garden grow? You will learn to plant it, dig it, grow it, show it and eat it.

- Learn to plan, care for, and manage vegetable and/or flower gardens, lawns, or commercial horticultural crops.
- Learn about pest management.
- Learn basic facts about plants and soils
- Apply knowledge by experimenting with plants in a laboratory or in the field.
- Learn about landscaping and water gardens.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1	Learning More Intermediate / Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify different types of gardens • Grow and maintain a garden • Plant seeds • Learn pest management techniques • Learn how to harvest crops • Examine parts of a plant and discover the function of the parts • Learn to identify and use common garden tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about garden fertilizer and nutrients plants need to grow • Plant bulbs in the fall for spring blooms • Learn to divide plants and transplant favorite specimens • Make a container garden • Learn about compost and make a simple compost bin • Discover different ways to prepare and use garden produce • Sell produce at a farmers market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start an herb garden • Learn about food preservation methods • Take a soil sample and have it tested for nutrients • Learn about Integrated Pest Management for the yard or garden • Experiment with organic production • Design an experiment • Test different varieties or management techniques • Design a landscape plan for your home



Take Horticulture further!

Here are other opportunities to explore horticulture:

- Expand your garden and sell produce at farmers markets or to local restaurants
- Learn about locally grown foods
- Design an experiment and share the results at your school science fair.
- Collect seeds and gardens supplies, and then donate them to a local organization.
- Help children plant a garden at a local daycare or school
- Job-shadow at a local nursery or farm to explore careers that interests you
- Attend Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in CSI: Crops and other workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community
- Is it fair time? Consider taking an exhibit, a piece of your project learning to the fair for judging and to show off what you have learned throughout the year. It might get selected to go to the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Meet others interested in horticulture. Check out camps at the Iowa 4-H Center.
- Interested in a college education in the area of horticulture or landscape design? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors: www.hort.iastate.edu or www.design.iastate.edu

Exhibit Ideas

- Exhibit vegetables, herbs or flowers at the county or state fair.
- Make a poster about parts of a plant.
- Build a compost bin or rain barrel.
- Prepare an exhibit on how to use fresh herbs in cooking.
- Create a notebook of common plants for a butterfly garden.
- Create design a landscape for home.
- Compare pepper varieties. Keep a record and show the results in a display.
- Make planters for accessible gardening.
- Prepare a poster showing proper harvest times for vegetables.
- Display different types of mulch for the garden.
- Make a cost comparison of starting your own seeds vs. buying transplants. Show the results on a poster.
- Create your own garden calendar.
- Conduct a taste comparison of different varieties.

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting and Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit (4H 462) • Preparing Cut Flowers and Houseplants for Exhibit (4H 464) • See them Sprout, Gardening Level 1(4H 465A) • Let's Get Growing, Gardening (Level 2 4H 465B) • Take Your Pick, Gardening Level 3 (4H 465C) • Growing Profits, Gardening Level 4 (4H 465D) • Vegetable Gardening Leader Guide (4H 465 LDR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Landscape Planning Worksheet: 12 Steps to a Functional Design (PM 612) • Perennials for Shade (PM 1913) • Perennials for Sun (PM 1914) • Iowa State University Extension Hortline (515) 294-3108 or email hortline@iastate.edu • ISU Master Gardener www.mastergardener.iastate.edu • Connecting, Learning & Living • Composting Just for Kids • Kidsgardening.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record your garden's progress in a journal or log • Keep a calendar – include planting dates, weather, pest management applications, fertilizers, etc. • 4H 462 WS Vegetable Garden Project Worksheet • 4-H Yearly Summary (4H 0096) • Basic 4-H Project Record (4H 0096A) • Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096B) • Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096C)

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