



Mini 4-H

FLOWER & GARDEN



An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K - 2

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Developed by Purdue Extension – Elkhart County
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Elkhart County Mini 4-H Flower & Garden Manual
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4-H Facts



The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.

4-H Colors: Green and White

The 4-H Motto: To make the best better!

The 4-H Pledge:

**I Pledge
My Head to clearer thinking
My Heart to greater loyalty
My Hands to larger service
My Health to better living
For my Club,
My Community,
My Country,
and my World.**



Mini 4-H



Welcome to *Mini 4-H*! You are now a member of the Elkhart County 4-H family! We hope that you will have lots of fun learning new things in your 4-H career.

Mini 4-H is designed for youth in Kindergarten - Second grade. It will give you a taste of the 4-H program as well as help you to explore a variety of project areas.

Mini 4-H'ers may enroll in two different projects each year. This manual contains fun, age appropriate activities to complete throughout the 4-H year. These activities will help you to learn about the project you have chosen. Additionally, the manual contains all instructions needed for the exhibit you will be preparing for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair in July.

There is no competition in the Mini 4-H program. Each child who completes a project for the Fair will receive the same green completion ribbon and certificate. Judges comment sheets are provided only as a way to help you do your very best on future projects.

Mini 4-H does not have regular monthly meetings. Try to attend the special activities planned especially for YOU! These will give you a chance to meet the project leaders, have some hands-on fun, and ask questions about your important Fair display. *Mini 4-H* is FUN! You will enjoy it.

Once you enter the third grade you can join a regular 4-H club that meets monthly. You must enroll each year of your 4-H career.

If you have questions about the *Mini 4-H* program, please call the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office in Goshen at 574-533-0554. We will be happy to answer your questions.

As a Mini 4-H parent, please help guide and encourage your child through the activities. Work with them to help them “learn by doing”. Activities are designed to help your child learn about the project they have chosen. It is not required that they complete all the activities in this manual. Choose those that interest you and your child.



What is Gardening?

Having a garden can be FUN! Plants are living things that you grow. We see plants all around us. You may enjoy growing houseplants (grown inside your house in a pot), a vegetable garden to put food on the table or a flower garden to make your yard more beautiful. All these plants need special care to grow. In this project you will learn how to grow plants successfully.



ACTIVITY 1 – WHAT PLANTS NEED

All plants have needs to grow and be healthy. Among these are water, soil, air and space to grow. Different plants like different amounts of sunshine and different temperatures. It is important to choose a plant that likes the conditions that you have where you want it to grow. For example, you wouldn't plant a flower that likes to be in the sun under a shade tree. Read the seed package when choosing seeds for your garden.

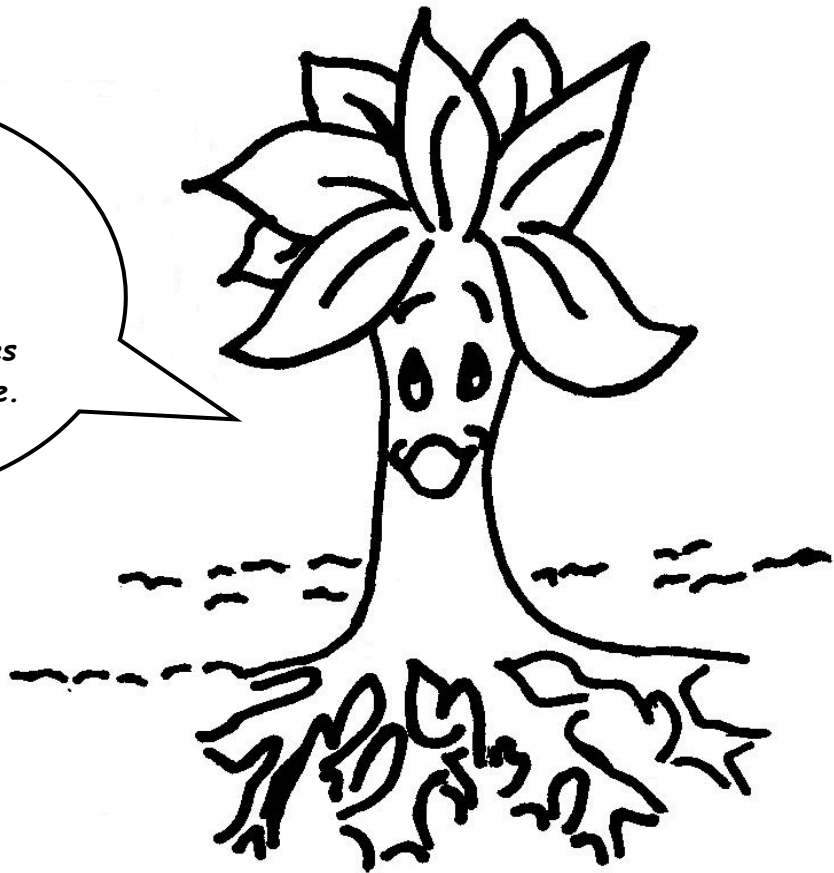
Materials needed for this activity: crayons activity sheets

What you will do:

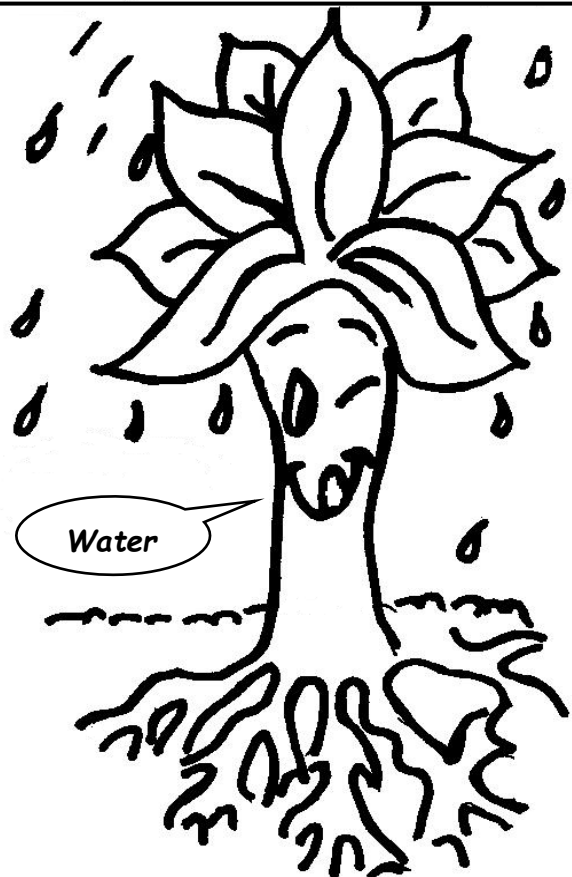
1. Read about the things plants need to grow.
2. Color the pictures.



Like you, plants have many needs. Plants need lots of soil, water, air, sunshine, the right temperatures and a lot of good care.



MMMM!!
Soil is like
food for



Water

What did you learn?

Name 4 things plants need to grow.

What would happen to your grass if we had no rain? _____

Why? _____

What can you do to prevent this from happening? _____



ACTIVITY 2 – GROWING A BEAN PLANT

This experiment will show you what happens when a plant doesn't get one of their needs met. In this case it will be light (or sunshine). This experiment also lets you see how a plant grows from a seed. The bean is the seed for the bean plant.

Materials needed for this activity:

pencil
water
ruler

2 clean plastic bags
2 paper towels

8 – 10 bean seeds
chart



What you will do:

1. Fold each paper towel so that it fits inside the plastic bag. Wet the paper towel and place it in the bag.
2. Place the seeds evenly inside the bag on the outside of the paper towel so you can see if they are growing.
3. Place one plastic bag in a warm, sunny place. Place the second bag in a dark place, like a closet.
4. Check the seeds every 2 days and record on the chart how they are growing.
5. Keep checking the seeds until they grow into a small plant.

Be sure to wet the paper towel if it dries out.
You may plant the small bean plant in your garden!



My Bean Plants

	In the Sun	In the Dark
Which grows first, the stem or the root?		
How many days did it take to sprout?		
How many days before leaves appeared?		
How long was the root the first day it appeared?		
What color is the root?		
How long was the stem the first day it appeared?		
What color is the stem?		

What did you learn?

Which seed grew the fastest? _____

Why? _____

What grew first, the root or the stem? _____

What was different about the plants in the sun and the plants in the dark? _____

Why do you think they were different? _____



ACTIVITY 3 – GROW A FLOWER GARDEN

(Get permission from your parents.)

Materials needed for this activity:

seeds of your choice

fertilizer

a place to grow a garden

garden tools



What you will do:

1. Prepare the soil. Turn the soil about 2 ½ inches deep and smooth with a rake.
2. Plant your seeds. Follow the instructions on the seed package. This will tell you how deep to plant your seeds and how long they will take to grow.
(Be sure to plant early enough for your flowers to be ready for the Fair.)
3. Care for your garden. Water it every week if there isn't any rain. Protect your garden from hazards such as too much water, too much fertilizer, weeds or insects. Remember to pull weeds!



What did you learn?

What kind of seeds did you choose? _____

How deep did you plant the seeds? _____

How long did it take for the plants to appear? _____

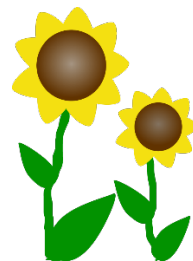


ACTIVITY 4 – DIFFERENT FLOWERS

M	O	A	I	B	A	B	Y	B	R	E	A	T	H	T	Z	M	B
S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	T	L	S	T	Q	R	C	D	M
W	N	C	T	P	D	I	F	Z	N	J	N	U	B	A	P	T	A
E	Q	A	R	S	E	G	J	O	M	Z	K	L	M	N	A	O	R
E	F	H	P	E	T	U	N	I	A	I	J	I	O	Z	N	D	I
T	E	G	N	D	S	O	B	R	U	M	N	P	Q	R	S	B	G
P	A	E	G	H	R	O	S	E	S	I	V	J	K	Z	Y	T	O
E	F	V	Y	N	P	A	B	F	C	F	Z	I	U	D	J	S	L
A	B	H	M	F	J	N	G	K	T	L	S	R	O	N	U	U	D
R	Z	T	P	A	I	R	F	O	R	C	H	I	D	L	M	N	S
Q	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	U	R	B	O	C	E	D	E
S	T	Z	O	J	L	P	M	A	C	D	Z	I	F	G	H	T	M
P	S	R	Z	C	U	K	H	O	S	R	D	A	I	S	Y	H	I
Q	I	N	Z	A	J	O	K	Q	A	A	B	P	N	E	F	O	H
M	R	J	K	L	Q	R	G	F	L	C	R	Z	S	Y	M	N	Y
Z	I	N	N	I	A	N	O	G	E	R	A	N	I	U	M	L	E
P	O	Y	B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	S	U	S	A	N	G

Zinnia
Marigolds
Sunflower
Geranium
Petunia
Snapdragon
Gladiolus
Iris
Daisy
Roses

Tulip
Carnation
Sweetpea
Pansy
Orchid
Babys Breath
Black Eyed Susan
Lilac
Violet





ACTIVITY 5 – Growing Food

Materials needed for this activity:

seeds of your choice
garden tools

a place to grow a garden
fertilizer

What you will do:

1. Choose a vegetable to grow in your garden.
2. Repeat the steps in Activity 4 to plant and care for your seeds.
3. When your vegetables are ripe, pick your vegetables and eat them.

What did you learn?

Did you grow a vegetable? _____

Did you eat your vegetable? _____

Do you think your vegetable tasted better than what you buy at the store? _____

Why? _____

What other vegetables would you like to grow? _____





ACTIVITY 6 – DIFFERENT PLANTS

There are many kinds of plants you can grow. Think about some of these as you try the word search. Plants all need special care to grow.

Materials needed for this activity: pencil word search activity

Garden Words

B	E	E	T	S	A	C	A	N	T	A	L	O	U	P	E	S
R	C	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	S	B	A	P	W
O	D	E	F	L	E	T	T	U	C	E	G	H	I	E	J	E
C	A	B	B	A	G	E	K	T	U	R	N	I	P	S	L	E
C	M	S	G	H	T	U	F	G	E	G	G	P	L	A	N	T
O	N	U	P	I	S	V	E	H	O	P	E	E	E	S	I	C
L	T	O	M	A	T	O	E	S	N	R	Y	A	N	P	J	O
I	O	V	F	J	R	W	P	I	S	Q	X	S	G	I	K	R
S	N	W	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	W	A	G	N	L	N
T	P	I	E	K	R	X	G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	S
O	Q	X	H	L	O	Y	C	U	M	R	V	B	E	C	M	T
R	R	Y	D	C	P	Z	B	J	S	Q	U	A	S	H	N	S
R	S	Z	C	M	C	A	U	L	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	R
A	S	R	E	B	M	U	C	U	C	S	U	C	P	P	O	Q
C	T	A	B	N	O	A	Z	K	L	T	O	N	I	O	N	S

asparagus
green beans
tomatoes
cantaloupes
peas
cucumbers

eggplant
sweet corn
cabbage
peppers
zucchini

squash
broccoli
onions
watermelon
cauliflower

beets
lettuce
turnips
carrots
potatoes



What did you learn?

Name a plant growing in your yard. _____

Who cares for the plants in your yard? _____

What is your favorite vegetable? _____

Name a vegetable you would like to try growing that you are not growing now. ____

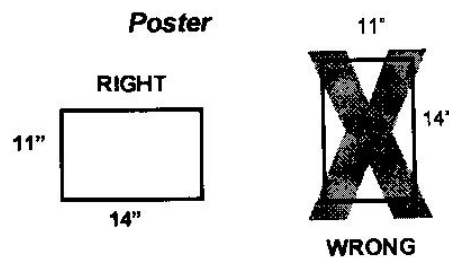




What to Exhibit Flower & Garden

There are three choices for your 4-H Fair exhibit. Please choose only one.

1. Make a Flower OR Garden poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 x 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.



Take several pictures of you working in your garden with your flowers OR vegetables. Put 1 – 5 pictures of you working in your garden on the poster.

NOTE: No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.
No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.

2. Select one vegetable from your garden. Place your vegetable on a paper plate along with a picture of you in your garden. Place your plate inside a plastic bag.
3. Exhibit cut flowers you grew in your garden in a simple bud vase (provide your own vase). Vase must be no more than 9 inches tall by 3 inches wide, neck opening of vase not to exceed 1.5 inches and be clear or white. Include 1 to 3 stems of one kind of flower.

NOTE: If you are unable to pick your project up on Project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building by Project Release. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

All posters, vegetables or flowers must include:
(both are found on page 15)

- Record Sheet (attached to the back of the poster, bottom of plate or rubber band to vase).
- Exhibit Tag attached to the back of the poster, bottom of plate or rubber band to vase).

Exhibit Tag:

Mini 4-H	_____	_____	_____	_____	Flower & Garden
	Name	City	Grade	School	

Record Sheet

-----Cut here-----

Name _____ Grade _____

What did you bring to exhibit at the Fair? _____

How many flowers/plants did you grow? _____

When did you plant your garden (*date*)? _____

Did you enjoy working in the garden? _____

