Mini 4-H Flowers

Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Johnson County Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when enrolling in Mini 4-H. This manual and the manuals on various other topics will provide fun age appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information within this manual. Most children will choose to exhibit their project at the 4-H fair. The 4-H fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group.

Please help the child to bring their Mini 4-H project to the fairgrounds during the designated Mini 4-H judging time. Each exhibit will need a Mini 4-H exhibit tag and their Mini 4-H Project Record Sheet. Mini 4-H exhibits are non-competitive meaning they all receive a special Mini 4-H blue ribbon.   Once the fair is over, be sure to pick up the project during 4-H Project Release.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please feel free to contact Purdue Extension Johnson County at **317-736-3724**.
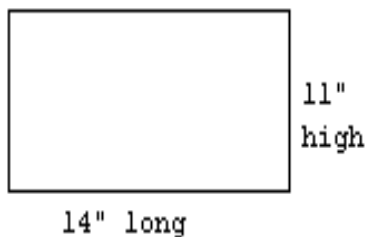
Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce kindergarten, first, and second graders to the Johnson County 4-H program.

RULES
1. Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is enrolled in kindergarten, first, or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.

2. Any Kindergartener may enroll in one (1) project.
   Any first grader may enroll in one (1) or two (2) projects.
   Any second grader may enroll in one (1) to four (4) projects.

3. Mini 4-H members are enrolled in the Mini Clovers 4-H Club, which is led by the Extension Educator & Volunteers. Meetings are not required, the project(s) will be done at home.

4. Mini 4-H projects include: Arts & Crafts, Bugs, Cookie Decorating, Collections, Flowers, Foods, Forestry, Horse & Pony, Livestock, Models, Sewing, Small Animals, and Wildlife.

5. Enrollment of Mini 4-H begins October 1st.

6. **ALL POSTER EXHIBITS MUST**:
   A. Have a solid, stiff backing, which is 11" high by 14" wide.
      This can be 1/4" plywood, HEAVY cardboard, foam board, or masonite.

      Exception: Wildlife poster is 11"x 22".

   B. Be positioned **HORIZONTALLY**.

   C. Have a total exhibit board no larger than 11" high by 14" wide.
      (Wildlife- 11"x 22")

   D. Be completely **COVERED BY A CLEAR PLASTIC** material.

Mini 4-H Flowers

It is fun to grow flowers. They are pretty, smell good, and make people happy. In this project you should do the following:

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: GRADE K

1. You may buy a house plant and care for it until the 4-H fair. Please no air ferns or cactus!
2. Learn to identify two kinds of garden flowers and two kinds of wild flowers.
3. Exhibit one house plant at the county fair.
4. Attach a name tag to your house plant. You can use the name tag printed at the bottom of this page.
5. Fill out the record sheet found in the back of this manual and bring it with your exhibit to the fair.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: GRADE 1

1. Choose one of the following projects to do for your exhibit:
    A. You may plant one type of flower from seeds or seedlings and grow them outside in a garden.
    B. You may buy a house plant and care for it until the 4-H fair. (No air ferns, or cactus, please!)
2. Learn to identify two kinds of garden flowers and two kinds of wild flowers.
3. Exhibit one flower of those grown from seeds or seedlings or your house plant at the county fair.
4. Attach a name tag to your exhibit. You can use the name tag printed at the bottom of this page.
5. Fill out the record sheet found in the back of this manual and bring it with your exhibit to the fair.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: GRADE 2

1. Grow two blooming flowers of any type from seed or seedlings. Check flower seed package to be sure the flowers you plant will bloom in time for the 4-H fair. The package will tell you how many days it will take for the flowers to bloom. Ask an adult to help you decide on what kind of flowers to plant.
2. Learn to identify at least three kinds of wild flowers and three kinds of garden flowers. You might want to find pictures of these flowers and paste some of them on the back of your record sheet.
3. Exhibit an arrangement of the flowers you have grown.
4. Attach a name tag to your exhibit. You may use the tag printed at the bottom of the page. Fill out a record sheet and bring it with your exhibit to the fair.

NAME_____

GRADE (as of January 1) _____

SCHOOL_____

Mini 4-H'ers Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things, which you can share with your family and friends.

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with a "H" on each leaf

The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best better."

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

My **HEART** to greater loyalty,

I promise to use my heart to be a good friend.

My **HANDS** to larger service,

I promise to use my hands to do helpful things for others.
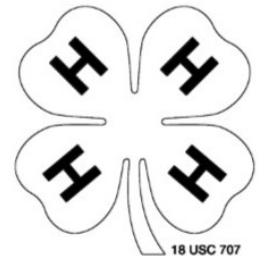
And my **HEALTH** to better living,

I promise to take care of my body and to show others to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community,

I promise to help my group, my community,

My country, and my world.

my country, and my world be happy and safe for everyone.

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MINI 4-H FLOWERS

FLOWERS FROM SEEDS:

If you choose to grow your flowers from seeds, you will probably want to choose zinnias or marigolds because these are the easiest to grow. Remember to plant only as many as you can care for.

First you and your parents must decide where you will plant your flowers. You may have a spot in the garden, yard, flower box, or flower pot. Where you plant them may make a difference in your choice of flowers. All growing things need light, water, and food, but some need more than others. Some need more water, and some can live on less food which means they can live in poor soil. These are things you will talk with your parents or gardening friends about.

Next you will need to prepare a seed bed or a place for your flowers. If your spot is in the garden or yard, pick up all the trash and get ready for spading. If tools are too heavy for you, ask an adult to help. You usually spade or plow six to eight inches deep. Rake the dirt until you have a fine, level seed bed and all the large pieces of dirt are broken up.

If you are planting seeds, do what it says on the package. It will tell you how deep and how far apart to plant the seeds. This is very important. Be very careful and do not cover marigold or zinnia seeds more than 1/4 of an inch!

How excited you will be when the first blooms come in! For zinnias, that will be between 65 to 90 days after they are planted. For marigolds, the blooms usually take 30 to 45 days. If you want your plants to grow well, you must keep down the weeds! Pull them up or kill them as you hoe. If you do this often, it is not difficult. You may need to loosen the soil around the plants by hoeing or raking. Your parent or garden friends will show you how to do this. If Mother Nature does not send you some rain, you will have to water your plants.

All of this can be fun, but the most pleasant part of growing your own flowers comes when you share them with others. When you cut your flowers, try to cut them in the morning right after they have opened. Cut them with a sharp knife or scissors, then take off the lower leaves. Put them in a bucket or can of warm water. The water should come 1/3 of the way up the stems. Put these in a cool place for about two hours. Now the flowers will be crisp and fresh when you arrange them.

GROWING PLANTS FROM SEEDLINGS

How To:

1. Get seedling plants of petunias, marigolds, or zinnias from the garden store or use the plants you have grown.

2. Spade and prepare a garden plot or use a large flower pit or window box to plant your seedlings in. If you use a container, be sure it has a hole in the bottom for drainage. Put a layer of gravel in the bottom one inch deep. Fill with a soil mix prepared in the following ratio; one cup garden soil, one cup sphagnum peat moss, and one cup sand. It is best to use sterilized garden soil because weed seeds and disease organisms are often in garden soil. However, the size of the container may make this too expensive.

3. Carefully remove the seedlings from the containers they came in. If they are growing in peat pots, you can plant the container with the plant. Be sure to plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in their original container. If you use plants in peat pots, the top rim of the pot will act as a "wick" and evaporate water out of the soil around the roots of the plant. Remove this rim to the soil level.

4. After you have planted your seedlings, water them with diluted fertilized solution. An example is one tablespoon of high phosphate fertilizer (10-52-17 or similar analysis) in one gallon of water. Put one cup of the solution around each plant.

5. Flowering plants usually require some water each day if it does not rain. However, at first, they may need watering several times a day until they become established. Watch the plants, and water carefully. Over-watering can be as harmful as under-watering. Watering plants in a container requires more judgment and care than watering plants in a garden bed.

6. Be sure to place your containers in a sunny location.

7. Carefully remove weeds as they grow. Weeds compete with plants for space, nutrients and water.

TABLE ONE. ANNUALS TO GROW FROM SEEDS:

Plant	Planting Time	Germination Time (days)	Plant Spacing (inches)
Ageratum	Late Spring	5	10-12
Aster	Late Spring	10	12-14
Calendula	Early Spring	7	10-12
Cockscomb	Late Spring	10	10-12
Cosmos	Late Spring	5	10-12
Four O'clock	Late Spring	5	12-14
Marigold	Late Spring	5	10-14
Nasturtium	Late Spring	8	8-12
Phlox	Early Spring	10	6-8
Sunflower	Late Spring	5	12-14
Zinnia	Late Spring	5	8-12

TABLE TWO. FLOWERS TO GROW FROM TRANSPLANTS:

Plant	Exposure	Plant Spacing (inches)
Coleus	Sun	10-12
Dahlia	Semi-Shade	12-14
Geranium	Full Sun	12-18
	Semi-Shade	
Impatiens	Full Sun	10-12
	Semi-Shade	
Pansy	Full Sun	68-
	Semi-Shade	
Petunia	Full Sun	12-14
Salvia	Full Sun	8-12
Snapdragon	Full Sun	6-10
Verbena	Full Sun	18-24
Zinnia	Full Sun	8-12

HOUSE PLANTS:

If you choose to buy a house plant, ask your parents or a gardening friend to help you pick it out. Grandparents are usually good at this to!

If you buy your plant at a nursery, the person helping you at the nursery can help you make your choice. You can also buy these plants at most grocery stores. Maybe, your parents already have some plants and could give you a start from one of theirs.

Your plant will already be in the proper size pot and right soil mixture if you buy it from a nursery or grocery store. If not, ask what size pot would be best.

Put some pebbles or pieces of broken clay pots in the bottom of the pots for drainage. Then, put about one inch of potting soil over this. The best soil to use is a mixture of 1/4 sand, 1/4 peat moss, 1/2 soil from the woods or the yard. Put the plant roots on the top of the soil and pour more soil around it. Leave about 1/2 to 1 inch of the rim of the pot above the soil. Pack the soil around the plant and water.

Ask your parents or gardening friends about watering the plant and about where to put it.

SELECTING FLOWERS FOR EXHIBIT

In selecting flowers for exhibit, be sure the bloom is fresh and has all petals perfect and evenly arranged. The entire plant should be clean with no evidence of disease, insect or mechanical damage. The stem should be straight and strong enough to support the bloom.

When you cut the flowers, try to cut them in the morning right after they have opened. Cut them with a sharp knife or scissors, then take off the lower leaves. Put them in a bucket or can of warm water. The water should come 1/3 of the way up on the stems. Put these in a cool place for about two hours. Now the flowers will be crisp and fresh when you arrange them!

RECORD SHEET

MINI 4-H FLOWERS

Name _____Grade _____

School Attending _____

Please complete and bring with Mini 4-H Exhibit.

I choose to exhibit _____.

I grew _____

_____

_____.

I learned _____

_____

_____.

My favorite part of Mini 4-H this year was _____

_____

_____.

List who helped you with the project _____

_____