

# Clay County 4-H



## MINI 4-H PROGRAM

### *GARDENING PROJECT MANUAL*

CLAY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
MINI 4-H PROGRAM  
6656 N. STATE RD. 59  
BRAZIL, INDIANA 47834

812-448-9041

PROJECT EXHIBIT TAG  
**Mini 4-H Gardening**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



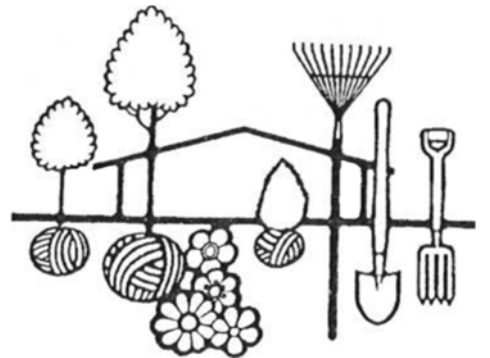
# Yard and Garden

Hi there! Good to have you enrolled in the "Mini 4-H" program. In this project you will discover how much fun it is to grow plants.

**CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES:** In order to complete this project you will need to decide what you are going to grow. You may grow either:

1. A small vegetable garden
2. A sweet potato plant.

The following pages will give you more good ideas on how to grow your plants.



# WHAT YOU WILL EXHIBIT

1. Select one vegetable variety from your garden and bring 3 products on the same vegetable on a paper plate to the county 4-H fair. Be sure to fill out the "Exhibit Tag" and tape it to the front edge of your plate. Attach your completed record sheet to the bottom of the paper plate.



OR

2. You may exhibit your sweet potato plant.

OR



3. Exhibit 3 to 5 pictures of your plant or garden. If you decide to exhibit pictures of your plant or garden you should put them on an 11" x 14" inch horizontal piece of poster board or heavy cardboard. This must be covered with plastic and mounted on a hard surface. Include a sentence under each picture. Be sure to fill out the exhibit tag and place it on the front lower right hand corner of your poster or on your plant container. Attach your completed record sheet to the bottom of the container or to the back of your poster and cover your poster with clear plastic.

NOTE: If you select #1 above to exhibit, you should exhibit only one product for larger vegetables such as watermelon, pumpkin, or squash.



# **SWEET POTATO VINE**

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Here's a fast-growing vine for you to try, buy a sweet potato or two the next time you and your family go to the grocery store.

Sweet Potato Vines are easy to grow. You can grow it in water, and you can train it to climb up around a window. You must begin with a healthy sweet potato. Select a plump potato that is free of rot, mold, or black spots. If a few pink buds are showing, that's fine: Your potato has already begun to sprout and probably will grow quickly. Make sure there are some "Eyes" (buds) on the potato you have chosen.

Cut off half of the sweet potato so it will stand in a dish filled with one inch of water. Put the dish near a window. Soon you will notice green sprouts coming from the "eyes". If you keep it watered you will have a healthy and attractive green vine. Be sure there are some "EYES" on the piece of sweet potato you have chosen to grow.



# PLANT YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN



Find a place which has at least six hours of sunshine each day. Your garden should be no bigger than 10 by 10 feet or you could use a space along a garage or house.

Is the soil ready? Take a ball of soil (dirt) from your garden and squeeze it. If it falls apart you can go ahead and plant your garden. If the ball sticks together, it's too wet so you will need to wait until the soil gets dry. Before you plant your garden, you will need to do the following things:

1. Put fertilizer on your garden area.
2. Turn the soil under about 6 to 8 inches.
3. Smooth the area with a rake.

When to plant? If you are using seeds, follow the directions on the package. The package will tell you how long it takes the vegetables to grow. Make sure you plant it soon enough so that it will be ready by fair time. Ask your mother or father to help you decide when to plant each different vegetable. You should plant at least 3 different kinds of vegetables. Why not add some color to your garden by planting some flowers?



# IDEAS TO HELP YOU

## Planting Seeds

Now decide what you want to grow. Some easy vegetables are beets, lettuce, carrots and radishes.



You may want to get a head start on some vegetables by planting plants. Some of these could be tomatoes, peppers, and cabbage.

Be sure to ask your mother and father to help you with planting and reading the directions on the seed package.

Don't plant your seeds too deeply. Barely cover the little seeds (like carrots and lettuce) and have only 1 inch of soil over large seeds (like corn).

## Garden Tools

You will need some tools to use in your garden. Maybe your mother and father will let you use their tools. You will need a spade or shovel, rake, hoe, garden hose or sprinkling can, string and stakes.

Other things you will need are: fertilizer, seeds and plants.

## Weeding and Watering

Vegetable plants need plenty of water in the summer. Put 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water on your garden each week, unless the rain does it for you. Light sprinklings may do more harm than good. Weeds are like robbers. They steal water, food and sunlight from your plants. Pull all weeds as they grow.



MINI 4-H  
GARDENING CHECK SHEET

# Did You Check?

1. Is your exhibit tag on correctly?
2. Are your records complete?
3. Is your work neat, clean, and your very best?
4. Are you pleased with what you have completed?
5. Did you help anyone else learn some fun projects from this project manual?
6. Did you do more than one activity in this booklet?







# "GREEN THUMB" RECORD SHEET MINI 4-H PROGRAM



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions. Attach this completed record sheet to your project. See you at the fair!!!

1. Which of the choices did you choose for your "Exploring 4-H" Gardening Project? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many plants did you have for your project? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What date did you start your project? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. List the people that helped you with your project? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How much did it cost you to grow your garden or sweet potato plants? \_\_\_\_\_

6. List some of the things you did to make sure your plants lived?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_