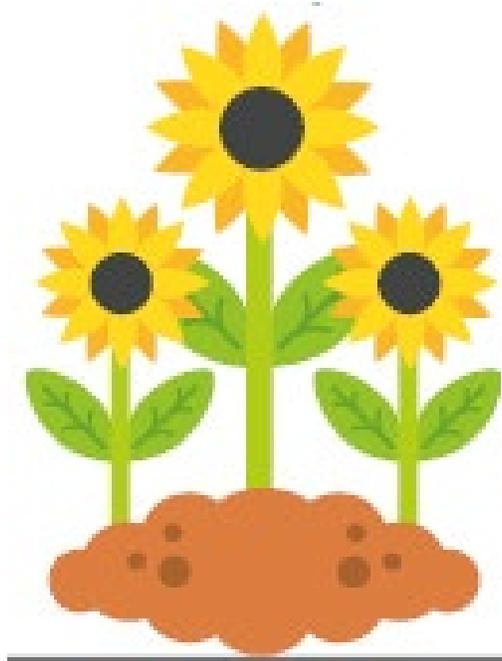




# Mini 4-H

# FLOWER & GARDEN



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

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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 through 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 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, call the Purdue Extension Elkhart County Office at 574-533-0554. We are 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 to “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. Choose those that interest you and your child.**

Manual Developed by Purdue Extension Elkhart County  
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## **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**

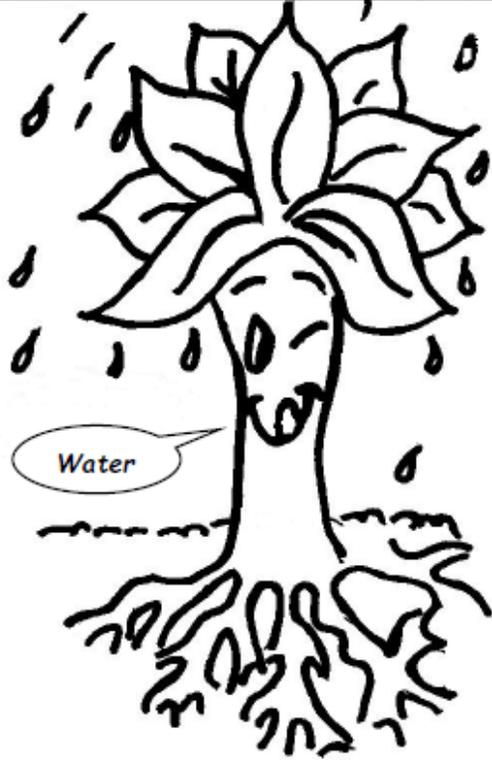
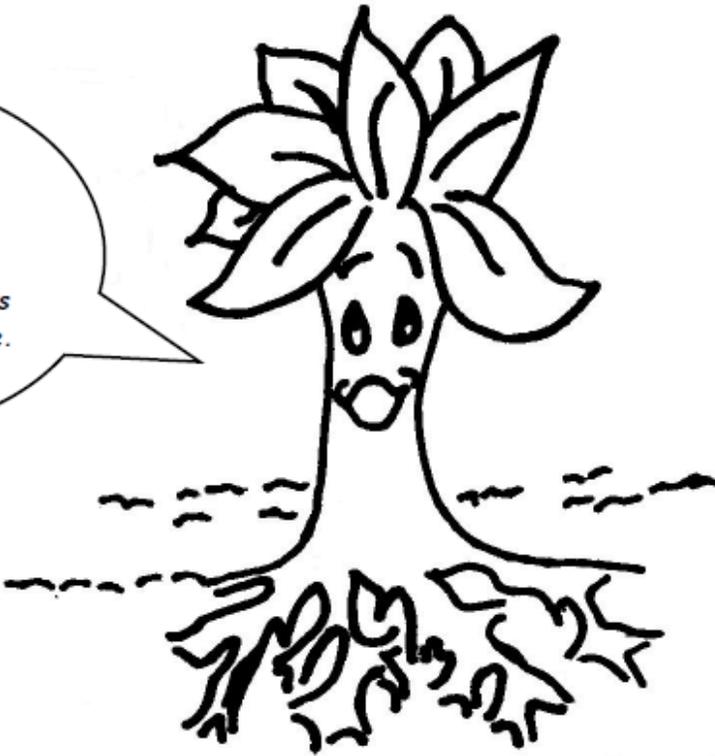
All plants have needs to grow and be healthy. Among these are water, soil, air and space to grow. Different plants like different amounts of sunshine and different temperatures. It is important to choose a plant that likes the conditions that you have where you want it to grow. For example, you wouldn't 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 and 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.



### **What did you learn?**

Name 4 things plants need to grow.

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

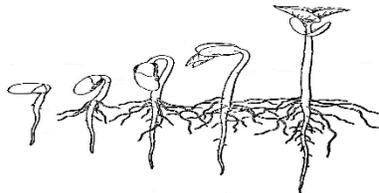
Why?

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, 2 clean plastic bags, 8 – 10 bean, seeds, water, 2 paper towels, and ruler



### **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 next page 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

Which grows first – the stem or the root?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

How many days did it take to sprout?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

How many days before leaves appeared?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

How long was the root the first day it appeared?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

What color is the root?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

How long was the stem the first day it appeared?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

What color is the stem?

**In the Sun –**

**In the Dark –**

**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, and 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, a place to grow a garden, garden tools, and fertilizer

**What you will do:**

1. Choose a vegetable to grow in your garden.
2. Repeat the steps in Activity 3 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 and 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?

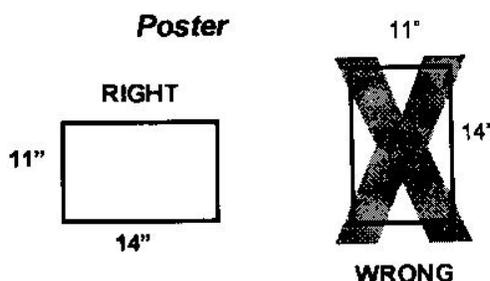
Name a vegetable you would like to try growing that you are not growing now.

# 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 inches by 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 found on page 12)**

- 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:**

<b>Mini 4-H</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Flower &amp; Garden</b>
	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>School</b>	

**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?**