

MINI 4-H FLOWERS



Purdue University, Indiana Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
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MINI 4-H FLOWERS

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Flower Project. We think you'll find it's fun to grow flowers! So let's start by reading carefully the following information about the flowers you will be growing.

First, you must purchase your flower seeds. We recommend either marigold or zinnia seeds. They are beautiful and easy to grow. One package will be plenty, and they can be purchased at almost any grocery, hardware, garden, or department store.

You and your parents must decide where to plant your flower seeds. Outside in the garden or around the house will be best. Remember, all growing things need **light**, **water**, and **food**. So pick a spot where the soil is rich and well drained, and there are lots of sunlight.

After picking the location, you are ready to prepare the soil. First, pick up all trash (sticks, stones, paper, etc.) that may be lying on the ground. If tools are too heavy for you, ask for some help. If you use a tiller, have an adult run it. Spade, till, or plow until you have a fine level seed bed.

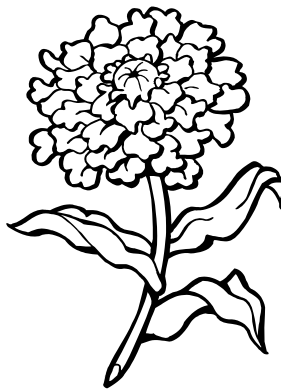
Read the information on the seed package. It will tell you how deep and how far apart to plant the seeds. Be very careful and do not cover marigold or zinnia seeds with more than ¼ inch of soil. Just barely cover the seeds!

Carefully weed your flower bed at least once a week. Weeds compete with your flowers for food, moisture, and light so it is very important to pull out all weeds. Just be sure to pull out only the weeds and not your flowers.

MINI 4-H FLOWER PROJECT

REQUIREMENTS

1. Plant and take care of flowers. (Marigold or zinnia are grown easily)
2. Exhibit one of the flowers you have grown in a soft drink bottle at the county fair along with this completed record book.
3. Be sure to label your exhibit.



If you have any problems with your Mini 4-H Project please give us a call or stop in the County Extension Office located on the fairgrounds. Our telephone number is 675-1177.



All growing plants need water. If there is a lot of rain there will be plenty of water for marigolds or zinnias to grow, but if it's dry for several days, you should water your flowers. It is much easier to use a lot of water once a week than it is to water everyday. Do not water plants everyday as too much water is just as harmful to your plants as too little water.

Zinnia blossoms usually appear between 65-90 days after planting. Marigold blossoms usually appear 30-45 days after planting. This means that zinnias would need to be planted in May and marigolds in June to be ready for exhibit at the 4-H Fair. You may wish to plant seeds two or three times about ten days apart to insure having flowers to select from over a longer period of time.

Use your flowers to bring joy to others as well as yourself. Be sure the flowers are planted where neighbors and friends can see and enjoy their beauty. Cut some of your flowers for the dinner table or to set around the house. It would be very nice to take some flowers to a friend, relative, or neighbor, especially someone that is ill.

PREPARING YOUR EXHIBIT

The flowers should be cut right before bringing them to exhibit. Cut the stems long, leaving leaves on the stems. Place in a pop bottle filled with water. Place a label on the bottle with your name, address, and grade.

SUMMARY OF WHAT YOU DID WITH YOUR MINI 4-H FLOWERS

A. I arranged and/or gave flowers

<u>To Whom</u>	<u>For</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

B. Number of times worked with flowers

<u>Kind of job</u>	<u>Number of times performed</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

C. Write a short story telling us more about your experiences in flower fun. (The things you enjoyed, the things you learned, the things you did.)

Here are some pictures of wildflowers which I found around our community. (Draw and color flowers indicated or cut out pictures and paste on sheet)

DANDELION

WHITE CLOVER

GOLDENROD

VIOLET

MORNING GLORY

MAY APPLE

MINI 4-H FLOWERS RECORD SHEET

NAME _____ GRADE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DID YOU PLANT?

DATE MY FLOWERS WERE PLANTED _____

DATE MY FLOWERS CAME UP _____

DATE MY FLOWERS STARTED BLOOMING _____