

2nd Grade
MINI 4-H
FLOWERS



Hi! Welcome to Mini 4-H and the Mini 4-H Flowers Project. You are going to have a great time this year as you learn about flowers.

Before you begin this project, please read the helpful information listed on the next two pages.

Good luck on your project and, most of all, have fun!

INSTRUCTIONS

Before you start working on this project, please read these instructions with an adult or 4-H member who will be helping you.

1. Read the Exhibit Requirements, Note to Parents, Helpful Hints, and Project Goals.

2. You should begin working on your project when you get this manual.

3. Be proud of your project if you have done the best you can do.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Read this project book.

2. Exhibit one potted plant that you started from a seed or a cutting. Include the name of the plant and how you cared for the plant. Bring your flower to the 4-H Fair and turn it in as your flowers exhibit.

NOTE TO PARENTS

4-H is proud to be considered a "family affair." While it is expected that the 4-H member will actively complete his or her own project, please offer encouragement and guidance to your child throughout the project. Keep in mind that your child's exhibit is to be an exhibit of his or her best effort. Most importantly, take time to enjoy 4-H with your child.

HELPFUL HINTS

Each 4-H family should view a current copy of the Washington County 4-H Handbook. This book contains information on 4-H activities, rules and projects. Whenever you have 4-H related questions, please consult this information book.

Monthly Extension Newsletters will be mailed to families. Please read these Newsletters. They will contain information on upcoming 4-H activities, rule or project updates, and 4-H fair information.

Mini 4-H members are encouraged to attend 4-H Club meetings. At these meetings, you will learn more about 4-H, make new friends, and have fun.

PROJECT GOALS

Given the information in this manual and the help of an adult or older 4-H member you will complete an exhibit in the Mini Flowers Project.



Preparing

Select a container such as a plastic or clay pot. Make sure the container you choose has small drain holes in the bottom so that the excess water will drain through it. Place a piece of broken flower pot or a wire mesh over the holes to keep them from clogging. Before you place soil in the container, you need to place a level of gravel about 2 to 3 inches deep in the bottom and a layer of sand over this. Place your soil mix on top of the drainage layer. Leave 2 inches at the top of the container.

Growing Plants From Seeds

Using a pencil, punch 1 hole in the soil 1/4" deep. Sow (plant) two seeds in the hole. Gently brush soil across the hole to cover the seeds. Press the soil lightly over the seeds. Be patient. Some plants will come up in 5 days; others will take 2 weeks. Water the seeds being very careful not to wash the seeds out of the soil. Place your carton or pot in a plastic freezer bag and seal it shut. Do not place in sunlight. When the plants begin to show above the soil, remove the plants from the bag. Now the plants can be placed in the sunlight.

Thinning

After your plants come up, you will need to pull out one plant. By hand, gently pull out the smaller, weaker plant, leaving the stronger one. Be sure to

leave only one plant in your pot.

Growing Plants From a Cutting

Fill a 2-quart freezer bag with 6 inches of a moist soil mixture. A good soil mixture to use would be one that contains equal amounts of sand and peat moss or perlite and peat moss. To get the cutting, a sharp knife should be used to cut the plant. If cutting a begonia, or African violet then a leaf petiole cutting consisting of a leaf and the end part should be cut. Set the cutting deep enough in the soil to stand up straight. If cutting geranium, philodendron, or hydrangea then a leaf-bud cutting consisting of a leaf plus the bud on a section of the stem should be cut. These plants must be cut with a bud. If a bud isn't cut, the cutting will root, but no plant will grow out of the ground. For Sedum and jade plants, cut a leaf and stick the base of the leaf standing straight up in the soil mixture. Once the cutting is in the soil, seal the bag shut.

Do not place the bag in sunlight. When the roots start to appear, the bag can be opened and the plant put in sunlight. The cuttings should have plenty of water, but should not be over-watered. Once the cuttings have developed roots about 1/2 to 1" long, they can be transplanted into a pot. Pat down the soil around the roots of each plant after you transplant and water. Shade plants for a few days.

Caring

Once your plants are growing, you must continue to take good care of them. It is important for you to check on your plants often to make sure your plants are healthy. To keep them healthy, you will want to water and cultivate (loosen the dirt) them.

Watering

Check your plants often and water when the soil is dry to the touch. Every 2 to 3 days. The bigger your plant gets and the hotter it is outside, the more often they need watered. Water in the morning or early afternoon, if you can.

Displaying for the Fair

Before you bring your potted plant to the judging, removed any dead or diseased leaves, and any old or faded blooms. Water your plant the night before you bring it or in the morning of judging, but be sure it is completely drained before bringing it in for judging. On an index card, write the name of your plant and how you cared for it.

* Information for this portion of the manual came from Montgomery County Mini 4-H Gardening developed by Sherry Legg-Young, 4-H 262 All About Annual Flowers, and HO-37 "New Plants from Cuttings" developed by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Check List for Your Flowers Exhibit

The judge will consider these things when they look at your exhibit. Can you answer "yes" to each question?

Yes

No

1. Is your exhibit a potted plant you started from a seed or a cutting? _____

2. Is your plant free of insect/disease damage? _____

3. Did you include the name of the plant and how you cared for it? _____

It is important that you get your exhibit to the fair on time. Check your 4-H Newsletter or ask your 4-H Club leader when your Mini Flowers project exhibit needs to be checked-in at the 4-H Fair. Write that information here and on your family calendar.





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