

Mini 4-H GARDENING

- Mini 4-H is open to youth who are currently in **Kindergarten, first, or second grade** at the time of their enrollment on 4HOnline.
- Enroll in Mini 4-H through the 4HOnline website by January 15, <https://in.4HOnline.com>
- There is no state program fee or manual fee for Mini 4-H, a local club fee may apply.
- Each Mini 4-H member can enroll in up to 5 mini 4-H projects and is able to **exhibit 2 mini-projects** at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair.
- All projects to be exhibited must be entered into Fairentry.com (<https://stjoseph-in.fairentry.com>) prior to check-in.
- All Mini 4-H projects are checked in on Monday or Tuesday of project turn-in week, one week before fair starts, in the 4-H Exhibit Hall of the Esther Singer Building. Enter Gate 2 off Ironwood Road.
- Your completed Mini 4-H project will receive a 4-H ribbon once it is exhibited at the 4-H Fair.



GARDENING:

You will learn how to plant and care for your garden. An adult can instruct you in the procedure, but you are to do everything yourself.

Exhibit Requirements: Your exhibit at the county fair will be 3 different vegetables you have grown and a photograph of you in your garden.

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 GARDENING

Spring is the time for growing vegetables and flowers. Preparing the soil for planting is the most difficult part of having a garden. Ask a parent or a friend to help you turn over the soil with a shovel. Wait until early to mid-April so that the soil will have had a chance to dry. After you turn the soil over, use your rake or hoe to break up any lumps. You may want to fertilize your garden with a commercial fertilizer, following the directions, however, this is up to you.

If you need more help, you may get a bulletin from the Purdue Extension Office. Ask for HO-32, HOME GARDENER'S GUIDE.

SOME GARDENING ITEMS YOU WILL NEED

Seed and/or plants	Shovel
Garden Rake	Stakes (large & small)
Fertilizer	Hoe (or small hand trowel)
Garden Hose or Sprinkling Can	String



YOU SHOULD FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON PACKAGES OF SEED YOU BUY!

Here are some general guidelines on how to plant seeds: Plant seeds for early crops between April 10th and May 20th (Check seed packages for exact date.)

1. Stake out the area in rows. Follow a garden plan.
2. Put strings between two stakes as a marker to help you keep your rows straight.
3. Make a shallow trench using the handle of your rake or hoe. Place seeds in trench. Sow small seeds 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. Sow large seeds 1 inch deep. Follow directions on package.
4. With your hands, cover the seeds with soil. Press the soil lightly over the seeds.
5. Label the rows so you will know which vegetables or flowers you have planted.
6. Pull weeds out, but not the plants, because they do not give the plants room to grow.
7. If your plants need it, water them after supper when it is cool. They will not need it if it rains.



8. Be patient. Some plants will come up in 5 days. Some will take 2 weeks.

You will harvest your crops at different times of the year, so try to follow directions on packages of seeds.

TIPS ON SOME VEGETABLES

RECKLESS RED RADISHES

Put my seeds in the garden as soon as you can. Because I am so small, don't put me very deep in the ground. **NO MORE THAN ½ AN INCH.** Cover me lightly with soil, remember not too deep or I'll never peek through. If you plant more than one row of radish seeds, make my rows not closer than 1 of your feet apart.

Pick me when I'm as big as a dime and no bigger than a quarter. I should be ready to pick in 3 to 4 weeks.

GROOVY GREEN BEANS

You can plant my seeds between May 15 and June 1, but not before because the ground might be too cold for me. Put me in the ground a little deeper than the Reckless Red Radish and the Orville Onion. Put my seeds four fingers apart. If you plant more than one row of green beans, make my rows 2 of your feet apart. Pick me when I'm 3 to 6 inches long & I may be green or yellow. I should be ready to pick in 8 to 9 weeks.

ORVILLE ONION

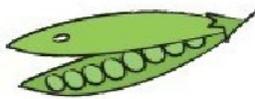
I take a long time to grow so put my seeds in the ground as soon as you can. Don't put me any deeper than 1/2 inch in the ground, like you did for Reckless Red Radish. My seeds like to be far apart so plant me four fingers apart. OH !! Don't forget!! Make rows no closer than 2 of your feet apart.. You can buy onion sets & plant them 1" deep.

Pick me just before my roots start to form a ball. My top should be green and fresh. The white part should be as long as your first finger. It will take me about 16 to 20 weeks to be ready to pick.

SPEEDY SQUASH

Plant me anytime between May 15 and June 1. Put me in the ground a little deeper than you did Reckless Red Radish, Orville Onion and Groovy Green Bean. Put 3 or 4 seeds in a circle, then take 3 steps and plant another 4 seeds. Leave 5 steps between my rows.

I will be ready to pick about 50 to 60 days after I am planted. I am best when my skin is soft and thin. Don't let me get too big! You should be able to scratch my skin with your finger and see the scratch.



TRICKY TOM TOMATO

My plants take a long time to come through the ground so after May 15 and before June 1 you may want to go to a greenhouse and get two of my plants. These plants grew from 2 of my seeds which were planted in March. They were put in the ground and kept inside because I would have frozen outside. When you get my plants home, plant them 4 steps apart, making sure to cover all of my roots.

You can pick me when I just start to get red in the face. Take me in the house and leave me in a sunny window and I will turn bright red. If those pesky birds and bugs are leaving me alone, you can leave me in the garden to get bright red. BE CAREFUL! Insects sneak up when you are not around. I should be ready to pick in 6 to 9 weeks.

LAZY LEAF LETTUCE

You can put me in the ground as soon as possible too. Don't put me as deep as Reckless Red Radish or Orville Onion because I will never find my way out the ground-- I'm too lazy. Just put a little soil on top of me, only enough so you can't see me anymore. You can put my seeds real close together, every 1/2 inch. My rows should be no closer than 1 of your feet apart.

Cut me when my leaves are crisp and as big as the palm of your hand or bigger. I will be ready to pick in 6 to 7 weeks.

There are many other garden fruits and vegetables you can try growing, such as: cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, cantaloupe, watermelon, etc., for your exhibit.

EXHIBIT: YOUR EXHIBIT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE PROJECT CHECK IN AT THE ESTHER SINGER BUILDING ON THE MONDAY OR TUESDAY BEFORE THE FAIR. PLEASE CHECK YOUR 4-H FAIR BOOK FOR THE CORRECT DATE OR CALL YOUR CLUB COORDINATOR IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS.

YOU WILL EXHIBIT: 3 DIFFERENT VEGETABLES THAT YOU HAVE GROWN AND A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOU IN YOUR GARDEN OR A SCRAPBOOK OF PICTURES OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF VEGETABLES. LABEL EACH VEGETABLE WITH ITS PROPER NAME.

