

4-H Horticulture Project



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CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Curricula

- » 4-H Flower Gardening Project Guide (4H1337): http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/flower_garden_gd
- » Michigan 4-H Guide to Herb Gardening Projects (4H1516): http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mich_4h_gd_herb_gardening
- » Heritage Gardening: Vegetables (4H1279): http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/heritage_gardening_vegetables
- » Michigan 4-H Guide to Herb Gardening Projects (4H1516): http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mich_4h_gd_herb_gardening
- » Selecting Vegetables for Exhibit (4H1175): http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/selecting_vegs

National 4-H Curricula

- <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>
Gardening:
- » See Them Sprout (07162) (Grades 3-4)
 - » Let's Get Growing (07163) (Grades 5-6)
 - » Take Your Pick (07164) (Grades 7-9)
 - » Growing Profits (07165) (Grades 10-12)
 - » Helper's Guide (07166)
 - » Exhibit Guide (07167)

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Horticulture involves the science and art of cultivating flowers, fruits, vegetables or ornamental plants in a garden, orchard or nursery. The 4-H horticulture project helps you discover the magic of plants, whether for food, engineering or pure enjoyment.

- » Explore the basics of plants and plant science including plant growth, soils and plant varieties.
- » Learn to care for vegetable and flower gardens, lawns or commercial horticulture crops.
- » Learn about crop and soil sciences whether you grow plants in a container, on a small garden plot, or on an acre of land or more.
- » Learn about careers in the "green" industry.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Identify different types of gardens.
- » Plant seeds.
- » Grow and maintain a garden.
- » Learn pest management techniques.
- » Learn how to harvest crops.
- » Examine the parts of a plant and discover the function of each part.
- » Learn to identify and use common garden tools.

Learning More:

- » Learn about garden fertilizer and nutrients plants need to grow.
- » Plant bulbs in the fall for spring blooms.
- » Learn to divide plants.
- » Make a container garden.
- » Learn about compost and build a compost bin.
- » Discover different ways to prepare and use garden produce.
- » Sell produce at a farmers market.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Start an herb garden.
- » Learn about food preservation methods.
- » Take a soil sample and have it tested for nutrients.
- » Learn about integrated pest management for the yard or garden.
- » Experiment with organic production.
- » Design an experiment.
- » Test different varieties or management techniques.
- » Design a landscape plan for your home.



FOCUS ON HORTICULTURE

Science

- » Explore the parts of plants and study their functions.
- » Design experiments to discover optimal temperature and light on seed germination and plant growth.
- » Experiment using different types of weed prevention in your yard or garden, comparing organic and inorganic methods.
- » Experiment using different types of pest control in your yard or garden, comparing organic and inorganic methods.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer at a community garden or start your own.
- » Organize a perennial exchange.
- » Start or participate in a local garden tour.
- » Grow a row for the hungry or donate excess produce to the local food bank.
- » Cut some flowers or design a floral arrangement and bring to a nursing home.

Communication

Prepare a poster or demonstration on how to:

- » Grow a square-foot, keyhole or other specialty garden.
- » Design a container garden.
- » Use herbs.
- » Make a floral arrangement.
- » Preserve fruits and vegetables.
- » Obtain proper nutrition from the fruits and vegetables you grow.
- » Prune woody ornamentals.



CURRICULA & RESOURCES, CONT.

Curricula — Other States

- » Garden Mosaics (Cornell University): http://communitygardennews.org/gardenmosaics/pgs/action/action_do.htm
- » My First Garden (University of Illinois Extension): <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/index.cfm>

Other Resources

- » KidsGardening (National Gardening Association): <http://www.kidsgardening.org/>
- » Junior Master Gardener Curricula: <http://67.59.137.247/index.cfm?did=6019§ionID=6019>

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » If you are interested in a college education in horticulture or crop science, visit MSU's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.
- » Enter a local horticulture contest.
- » Attend a garden show.
- » Job shadow a horticulturist, flower shop owner or greenhouse manager.
- » Enter a horticulture exhibit at the county fair.
- » Tour the MSU Horticulture Gardens including the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Horticulture Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

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