4-H Gardening Project

Are you Into It?
How does your garden grow? You will learn to plant, dig, grow, show, and eat it!

- Learn to plan, care for, and manage vegetable and/or flower gardens, lawns, or commercial horticultural crops.
- Learn about pest management.
- Learn basic facts about plants and soils.
- Apply knowledge by experimenting with plants in a laboratory or in the field.
- Learn about landscaping and water gardens

Here’s what you can do all year!

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<th>Starting Out Basic</th>
<th>Learning More Intermediate</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons Advanced</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identify different types of gardens</td>
<td>Build a compost bin and learn about garden fertilizer and nutrients.</td>
<td>Investigate how people use different plants while growing an herb garden.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grow and maintain a garden</td>
<td>Investigate the difference between annual and perennial plants.</td>
<td>Learn about food preservation methods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant seeds</td>
<td>Learn about different ways plants reproduce by dividing plants and transplanting favorite specimens.</td>
<td>Take a soil sample from different locations in your yard and garden and test for pH and nutrients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn pest management</td>
<td>Explore pollination while planting a butterfly garden.</td>
<td>Learn more Integrated Pest Management for yards and gardens.</td>
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<td>techniques</td>
<td>Create a gardening calendar by identifying the best seasons for growing different plants.</td>
<td>Design a plant science experiment and connect with your local UF/IFAS Research and Education Center for ideas.</td>
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<td>Learn how to harvest crops</td>
<td>Sell produce at a farmers market.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examine parts of a plant and discover their function</td>
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Step It Up!
Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started

Citizenship/ Leadership
- Plant a flower, tree, shrub or garden for a nursing home, school or other public area or adopt a flower bed at one of these locations.
- Help your local extension office host a gardening workshop, clinic, tour or plant sale.

Communications
- Give a presentation or demonstration or design a poster on garden tools or techniques.
- Make a how-to video to help others in your area.
- Teach members in your club how to identify common garden weeds

Healthy Living
- Look at the parts of plants we eat and make a plan to share their nutritional value with others.
- Go outside and use gardening to relax and enjoy the outdoors.
- Explore how recipes can be enhanced using herbs.

Science
- Explore plant parts and their functions.
- Design a plant science experiment and share the results at your local science fair.
- Visit your local UF/IFAS Research Center to learn more about plant science.

Learn more at florida4h.org  
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office
Expand Your Experiences in Gardening project!

- Expand your garden and sell produce at farmers markets or to local restaurants.
- Learn about locally grown foods and visit with farmers in your area.
- Collect seeds and garden supplies from your community, then donate them to a local organization.
- Job-shadow at a local greenhouse, nursery or farm to explore careers that interest you.
- Contact your county IFAS Extension Office for workshops, activities, and events related to plant science and gardening.
- Prepare an exhibit showing what you have learned for submission to the County Fair for judging; it may be selected to advance to a Regional or State Fair.
- Meet other groups interested in horticulture, such as local garden clubs, native plant societies, master gardeners and friend of park groups.
- Attend a local garden show.
- Check out camps at the Florida 4-H Center: [florida4h.org/camps/]
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interest: [florida4h.org/programsandevents/4hu/]
- Schedule a visit with the University of Florida to explore majors like Botany, Environmental Science, Horticultural Science, Plant Science, and Soil and Water Science: [cals.ufl.edu/index.php]

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly.

Available at National 4-H: [www.4-hmall.org]
Gardening:
Level 1: See them Sprout
Level 2: Take Your Pick
Level 3: Growing Profits
Leaders Guide

Available through EDIS:
Beginning Gardening Unit 1: [edis.ifas.ufl.edu]
- Plant Connections
- Vegetable Gardening Project

Available through Junior Master Gardener
[jmgkids.us/curriculum/]

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Contact your county 4-H office.

Check out activities at the National Junior Horticulture Association
[njha.org/projects.html]

Participate in Contests:
- 4-H Horticulture Identification and Judging Contest
- Florida Land Judging
- Public Speaking
- Photo Exhibit
- Poster Art

Attend other statewide events. Check them out at
[www.florida 4-h.org]

Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

- Record your garden’s progress in a journal or log
- Keep a calendar – include planting dates, weather, pest management applications, fertilizers, etc.

Project Report Forms can be found at [florida4h.org]
- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida’s Recognition Program involves feedback through:
- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at [florida4h.org] or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

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