

Plant Science Projects

Objectives

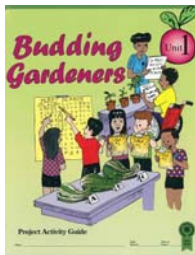
4-H'ers will learn to:

- demonstrate marketable /productive skills for work and family life in science and technology.
- effectively communicate with others.
- effectively plan and organize.

Project Manuals & Other Resources

Horticulture (Ages 8-18)

This curriculum provides activities in basic plant science, composting, flower arranging and indoor and outdoor gardening. While developing skills in horticulture, youth will be practicing valuable life skills such as communication, decision making and problem solving. There are even opportunities for leadership and community service through horticulture.



- PS 1 Budding Gardeners
- PS 2 Branching Out
- PS 3 Digging Deeper
- PS H Helper's Guide

Lawn Care (Ages 12-18)

This curriculum is aimed at educating teens on the basics of operating an entrepreneurial lawn care business. Topics include information on tools needed, safety practices, lawn care, mowing and business basics.



- PS4 R Mowing for Money Record Book
- PS4 H Leader Guide: Mowing for Money

Supporting Events & Activities

Competitive Contests:

County, District, State or National Levels

Demonstration and Illustrated Talks

Part of the "Plant Connections" division, this area includes all demonstrations related to production and marketing of fruits, vegetables, flowers, turf, ornamental, field crops, forage, landscaping, greenhouses, propagation, soils, hanging baskets, bulbs, citrus, and harvesting or processing crops, such as hay or silage. Artistic arrangement demonstrations may be given in the *Leisure Arts/Recreation* category.

Horticulture Identification and Judging Event

This event supports the county 4-H plant science/ horticulture program by providing an opportunity for 4 H members to acquire knowledge and skills in identification and selection of horticultural products (i.e. vegetables, fruits, flowers, ornamentals) and then apply these basic skills to consumer decision-making. [Please see the back of this brochure for additional requirements and information.](#)

Land Judging Event

This team competition supports the environmental and natural resource programs. Youth learn soil types and appropriate land use, including home site evaluation. It promotes an appreciation for the capability of the land and the contribution it makes to an individual's standard of living. The event also helps to improve personal knowledge and skills as well as family appreciation for the importance of conserving natural resources. [Please see the back of this brochure for additional requirements and information.](#)

Public Speaking

This program is designed to give members of 4-H experience in the preparation and delivery of a 4-H related speech. This contest requires 4-H'ers to recognize, organize, and present information on a given topic. For further information and requirements, please visit <http://florida4h.org/events>.

Photo Exhibit

The General Photo Exhibit Contest provides a showcase for 4-H member's photographic accomplishments with the intent of increasing public awareness and understanding of the 4-H program. For more information and requirements, please visit <http://florida4h.org/events>.

Poster Art Program

The Poster Art Program gives 4-H members an opportunity to use the visual medium of poster art to promote public understanding and support of the 4-H program. For more information and requirements, please visit <http://florida4h.org/events>.

Non-Competitive Events:

Day Camps and Clinics

Many counties and districts offer a variety of other educational workshops, clinics or day camps. For further information and requirements, please visit <http://florida4h.org/events>.

Award & Recognition Opportunities

Ribbons and Awards for Competitive Events

Blue, Red, and White ribbons are awarded based on quality of performance during a competitive event using a standard scoring system. In addition to ribbons, youth may receive additional recognition for excellence, such as trophies, at the district, state and national levels.

4-H Project Reports

Certificates, pins and other county determined awards are available to youth who complete their project records annually at the county level. The project report forms are available for each age group (Junior, Intermediate, Senior). For copies of these materials, please visit our website <http://florida4h.org>.

4-H Portfolios

Senior 4-H'ers (ages 14 and up) are eligible to complete and submit a 4-H Portfolio of their 4-H experiences and activities. Youth in plant science projects may compete in one of the following categories:

- **Environmental Education** - (predominantly focused on experiences in any aspect of environmental education)
- **Citizenship** - (if activities have been significantly focused on community and helping others)
- **Achievement** - (if 4-H activities include a broad spectrum of 4-H projects)
- **Leadership** - (if 4-H experiences have centered on leadership provided to other youth or teaching and leading project activities)

The award for 4-H Portfolio is a partially expense paid trip to National 4-H Congress.

College Scholarships

Graduating Seniors in 4-H are eligible to compete for a variety of educational scholarships.

Contact your local 4-H office for these and other supporting project events, activities and award opportunities.

Horticulture Identification & Judging Event

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State Contest

When: Last week of July

Where: Gainesville, FL

Participation Criteria:

- 4-H'ers must be at least 14 years old by September 1 of the current program year.

Participation Procedures and Quotas:

- **County:** Establish own regulations.
- **District:** Optional competition
- **State:** One senior level team consisting of three or four members (14-18 years old) per county.
- **National:** The state winning team is eligible to represent Florida in the National Junior Horticultural Association Conference and Contest.

Awards:

Trophies will be given to top individuals and teams at the state level. Partial sponsorship to national competition.

Land Judging Event

This team competition supports the environmental and natural resource programs. Youth learn soil types and appropriate land use, including home site evaluation. It promotes an appreciation for the capability of the land and the contribution it makes to an individual's standard of living. The event also helps to improve personal knowledge and skills as well as family appreciation for the importance of conserving natural resources.

When: Consult Annual 4-H Calendar (at <http://florida4H.org>)

Where: Varies

Participation Criteria:

- 4-H members must be 14-18 years old by September 1 of the current program year, and not have graduated from high school.
- There is also a Middle School (Junior and Intermediate levels) competition for 4-H members who are between 8-13 years of age prior to September 1 of the current program year.
- Must have been 4-H members for at least 30 days prior to the contest.

Participation Procedures and Quotas:

One senior level team and one junior level team (consisting of 3-4 members each) per county may be entered in the state contest following county contests.

Awards:

Plaques/rosettes will be awarded to high scoring teams and individuals. Winning Senior level teams will be given partial funding of a trip to the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma.