



Missouri 4-H

University of Missouri
4-H Center for Youth Development

Horticulture - Gardening Project Brief

Learning Objectives

- Practice decision making skills
- Learn basic gardening techniques
- Study soil Ph and learn to prepare garden soil
- Learn harvesting tips and safety procedures
- Develop a gardening plan
- Learn how to manage resources for use of vegetables and storing vegetables
- Identify plant pests and diseases
- Learn to plant for transplant use
- Study career choices in horticulture
- Learn judging skills for vegetables
- Develop financial records for gardening

Fair Projects

- Vegetables
- Garden plan or schedule
- Plant started from a cutting
- Display on pollination
- Hydroponically grown plant
- Poster on making a compost pile
- Display on plant pests
- Marketing plan to sell garden produce
- Poster on horticulture careers

Demonstration Ideas

- How to properly post a plant
- Washing vegetables
- How to develop a garden plan
- Staking and pruning tomatoes
- Handling chemicals
- Harvesting and storing vegetables
- Selecting good strawberry, blackberry or raspberry plants
- Pruning grapes or blackberries
- Selecting fruit for exhibit or purchasing
- Establishing an herb garden
- Cooking/preparing Vegetables/ recipes

Field Trips

- Local truck garden
- Visit a greenhouse
- Visit a landscaping business
- Take a trip to a local home improvement store, grocery store, farmers market or nursery

Ideas for Speech Topics

- Health benefits of vegetables
- Careers in horticulture
- Gardening for therapeutic reasons

Critical Thinking

- How will taking care of a garden every day help you to become more responsible?
- What type of decisions have you made that deal with taking responsibility?
- What have you learned about making decisions?
- Why is it important to plan ahead when planting a garden?
- How will the planning and organizing experience help you in the future?
- Why is it important to understand why different people have different needs when it comes to gardening?

Community Service

- Help with a community garden
- Plant boxes for nursing homes
- Volunteer at the local farmers market

Science & Technology

How have you used science and technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Using the scientific method to determine materials that drain well.
- Determining which pest control works best for your garden.
- Identification of pests
- Rotating crops to best utilize minerals in the soil
- Soil testing
- Plant diseases and proper care

Show Me Character

Trustworthiness - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- Always be honest with your project leader
- If someone asks if you have taken care of your garden - weeding, hoeing and watering - tell them the truth
- It's OK to have family members help; it makes the project more fun!

Respect - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- Pick your produce on time; don't let it stay on the vine too long
- Remember that you chose this project; you have the responsibility to grow the best product possible
- Are others counting on you? If you have promised someone produce, remember to get it to them on time and in good condition

Responsibility - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- Respect Mother Nature
- Provide proper nourishment to the soil by applying nutrients like fertilizer
- Utilize composting practices
- Understand that others may not enjoy every type of produce that you grow

Fairness - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- Don't charge others unrealistically high prices for your product. Remember they are helping you by testing your vegetables and telling you what you can improve
- Learn the rules of your local fairs and farmers markets so you know what to expect when you enter and sell

Resources

971 Gardening Unit A
Y9710 See Them Sprout!

972 Gardening Unit B
Y9720 Let's Get Growing

973 Gardening Unit C
Y9730 Take Your Pick

974 Gardening Unit D
Y9740 Growing Profits

To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/>.

Caring - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- Share what you have grown with others
- Don't forget the birds and insects; they like to eat leftovers from your produce and can help keep your garden healthy
- Many people can benefit from your garden; think of ways to share your produce with people who may not have fresh food to eat

Citizenship - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- Grow a garden in community space to see what it's like for people who don't have their own gardens
- Don't use more than your share of the ground; remember you're not the only person or animal enjoying the earth
- Share what you know about insects; help others see the benefit of having them around

Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Health/Physical Education** - consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health)
- **Mathematics** - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; other number sense, including numeration and estimation; and the application of these operations and concepts in the workplace and other situations.
- **Social Studies** - economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand.)

All Units

Y620 4-H Project Record
G6201 Vegetable Planting Calendar
LG9750 Gardening Helper's Activity Guide
LG9760 Gardening Exhibit Guide

G materials downloadable at

<http://extension.missouri.edu/main/DisplayCategory.aspx?C=2>