



# 4-H Gardening Project



## 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

## 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!

### Starting Out Basic

- Identify different types of gardens
- Grow and maintain a garden
- Plant seeds
- Learn pest management techniques
- Learn how to harvest crops
- Examine parts of a plant and discover their function

### Learning More Intermediate

- Build a compost bin and learn about garden fertilizer and nutrients.
- Investigate the difference between annual and perennial plants.
- Learn about different ways plants reproduce by dividing plants and transplanting favorite specimens.
- Explore pollination while planting a butterfly garden.
- Create a gardening calendar by identifying the best seasons for growing different plants.
- Sell produce at a farmers market.

### Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Investigate how people use different plants while growing an herb garden.
- Learn about food preservation methods.
- Take a soil sample from different locations in your yard and garden and test for pH and nutrients.
- Learn more Integrated Pest Management for yards and gardens.
- Design a plant science experiment and connect with your local UF/IFAS Research and Education Center for ideas

### 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.



## 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/](http://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/](http://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](http://cals.ufl.edu/index.php)

### Project Sharing Ideas

- Exhibit vegetables, herbs, or flowers at the county, district or state fair.
- Make a poster/display about parts of a plant or another gardening topic you are learning about.
- Build a compost bin or rain barrel.
- Prepare an exhibit or demonstration on how to use fresh herbs in cooking.
- Create a notebook of common plants for a butterfly garden or specialty garden.
- Develop a local garden calendar, newsletter, or blog

## 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](http://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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

- Plant Connections

- Vegetable Gardening Project

Available through Junior Master Gardener

[imgkids.us/curriculum/](http://imgkids.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://florida4h.org) or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)  
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER