

4-H FRUIT, HERB, and VEGETABLE Guidelines

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in Fruit, Herb, and Vegetable project areas.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Gain an appreciation of plants and our environment.
- Learn how to grow plants indoors or outdoors.
- Learn how to propagate plants.
- Learn about qualities and things to look for when buying seeds or plants.
- Explore horticulture as a hobby or career.

For the fair:

1. Projects must contain an appropriate sellable sized project. (Think bushel of apples)
2. Exhibits to be grown by exhibitor. No borrowed or purchased exhibits to be included.
3. Must be securely in a basket or in a bag as appropriate.

EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES

(These are some skills and ideas to cover at various age levels. Please do not feel limited to the activities listed below.)

Beginner:

1. Grow and care for some of the common, easy-to-grow plants.
2. Learn some of the fundamentals involved in growing plants (soil preparation, fertilizing, planting, thinning, transplanting, pruning, etc.)
3. Identify common varieties of plants.
4. Learn about plant parts and their functions.
5. Learn about the parts of a seed, how seeds germinate, and requirements for germination.
6. Learn how to conduct simple experiments with seeds.

Intermediate:

1. Grow and care for more difficult plants.
2. Learn about additional fundamentals involved in horticulture production. (Watering, pest control, picking and harvesting time, seed and plant sources, etc.)
3. Identify additional kinds and varieties of plants.
4. Make a garden plan that includes the location and spacing of plants in relation to each other and to surrounding plants, buildings, fences, driveways, etc.

5. Learn how to tell the quality of seeds and plants.
6. Learn how environmental factors affect plant growth (such as light, temperature, moisture, soil type, etc.) Learn about specific groups of plants, such as warm season and cool season vegetables, perennial vegetables, ornamental vegetables, and small and tree fruits.
7. Compare different varieties of the same vegetable.

Advanced

1. Grow and care for a wider more advanced selection of plants.
2. Learn about gardening in containers.
3. Compare different plants, seeds and supplies from various companies or sources.
4. Compare different varieties of the same vegetable.
5. Learn about buying and selling plants, vegetables and fruits.