



HORTICULTURE PROJECT AREA



How does your garden grow? In this project area, you will learn how to plant it, dig it, grow it, show it, and eat it.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Learn basic facts about plants and soils.
- Apply knowledge by experimenting with plants in a laboratory or the field.
- Identify different types of gardens.
- Grow and maintain a garden.
- Learn pest management techniques.
- Learn how to harvest crops.
- Examine the parts of a plant and discover the function of those parts.
- Learn to identify and use standard garden tools.
- Learn about garden fertilizer and nutrients that plants need to grow.
- Plant bulbs in the fall for spring blooms.
- Learn to divide plants and transplant favorite specimens.
- Create a container garden.
- Learn about compost and make a simple compost bin.
- Discover different ways to prepare and use garden produce.
- Sell produce at a farmer's market.
- Start an herb garden.
- Learn about food preservation methods.
- Take a soil sample and have it tested for nutrients.
- Learn about integrated pest management for the yard or garden.
- Experiment with organic production.
- Test different varieties or management techniques.
- Design a landscape plan for your home.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Give a presentation on garden tools or techniques.
- Make a video on how to make a water garden.
- Teach your club how to identify common garden weeds.

Civic Engagement

- Plant a flower bucket for the fairgrounds.
- Adopt a flower bed at a park.
- Make a compost bed for a community garden.

Leadership

- Organize a flower or vegetable sale to raise money for a particular cause.
- Teach a WIC class on using garden produce.
- Volunteer to host a garden tour.

Entrepreneurship

- Design and create corsages and boutonnieres for various formal occasions.
- Start a booth at your farmers market selling bouquets, potted plants, and succulents.
- Sell farm fresh fruits and vegetables to local businesses.
- Design and create raised gardens for sale.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Each March, hundreds of student researchers in grades 6–12 meet with professionals to discuss their findings and compete for scholarships during the **State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa**.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Exhibit vegetables and herbs or flowers at the county or state fair.
- Make a poster about the parts of a plant.
- Build a compost bin or rain barrel.
- Prepare an exhibit on how to use fresh herbs and cooking.
- Create a notebook of common plants for a butterfly garden.
- Create a design for a landscape for your home.
- Compare pepper varieties. Keep a record and show the results in a display.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Horticulturists** grow plants in a variety of situations including vegetable farms, orchards, plant nurseries and greenhouses. They also research how to grow plants better and develop new varieties of plants.
- A **greenhouse manager** does all the planning, purchasing, and daily management of plant production for a greenhouse.
- **Landscape architects** prepare sites, inspect landscapes, and use environmentally friendly practices.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- **Horticulture** is the major at most colleges that focuses on the biology and production of plants for human use.
- **Plant physiology** is the science that studies how plants live and grow at all levels from the molecular level to how whole plants interact with their environment.
- **Genetics** is an important field of study if you are interested in improving plant varieties.
- Students in **arboriculture** learn more about the functions and needs of plant life, and the best way to care for plants.

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