

Mini 4-H

Flowers

Divisions I & II



Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child to the Mini 4-H program. Mini 4-H is designed for boys and girls, who are in either first or second grade during this calendar year.

Your job as a Mini 4-H parent is to guide your child in any way that you can, we suggest assisting your child in completing the projects, but not completing the projects for them. It is your child's project and will be an important teaching and learning experience for him. So guide your child, but let him do as much of it by himself as he can.

Your child will need to exhibit something in each of the project areas which he has signed up for. Please see that your child gets the exhibit to the fair during the scheduled time. Your child will receive a ribbon for completing the project. You need to pick up the project after the 4-H Fair or make arrangements for someone else to get the project if you can not.

If you have any questions, you may call the Extension Office at 736-3724. We hope you and your child will enjoy the Mini 4-H program and we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

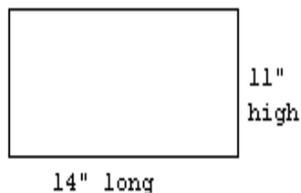
Johnson County 4-H Council

Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce both first and second graders to the Johnson County 4-H program.

RULES

1. Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is enrolled in either the first or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. Any first grader may enroll in one (1) or two (2) projects.
Any second grader may enroll in one (1) to four (4) projects.
3. Mini 4-H participants do not enroll in a 4-H club, but do the project at home.
4. Mini 4-H projects include: Arts & Crafts, Bugs, Clothing, Collections, Flowers, Foods, Forestry, Horse & Pony, Livestock, Models, Small Animals, and Wildlife.
5. Enrollment of Mini 4-H is done in April by distributing enrollment information to all first and second grade classes in each Johnson County elementary school.
6. **ALL POSTER EXHIBITS MUST:**
 - A. Have a solid, stiff backing, which is 11" high by 14" wide (half standard poster size). This can be 1/4" plywood, HEAVY cardboard, foam board, or masonite.
Exception: Wildlife poster is 11" x 22" .



- B. Be positioned **HORIZONTALLY**.
- C. Have a total exhibit board no larger than 11" high by 14" wide.
(Wildlife- 11" x 22")
- D. Be completely **COVERED BY A CLEAR PLASTIC** material.

Mini 4-H Flowers

It is fun to grow flowers. They are pretty, smell good, and make people happy. In this project you should do the following:

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: DIVISION I

1. Choose one of the following projects to do for your exhibit:
 - A. You may plant one type of flower from seeds or seedlings and grow them outside in a garden.
 - B. You may buy a house plant and care for it until the 4-H fair. (No air ferns, or cactus, please!)
2. Learn to identify two kinds of garden flowers and two kinds of wild flowers.
3. Exhibit one flower of those grown from seeds or seedlings or your house plant at the county fair.
4. Attach a name tag to your exhibit. You can use the name tag printed at the bottom of this page.
5. Fill out the record sheet found in the back of this manual and bring it with your exhibit to the fair.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: DIVISION II

1. Grow two blooming flowers of any type from seed or seedlings. Check flower seed package to be sure the flowers you plant will bloom in time for the 4-H fair. The package will tell you how many days it will take for the flowers to bloom. Ask an adult to help you decide on what kind of flowers to plant.
2. Learn to identify at least three kinds of wild flowers and three kinds of garden flowers. You might want to find pictures of these flowers and paste some of them on the back of your record sheet.
3. Exhibit an arrangement of the flowers you have grown.
4. Attach a name tag to your exhibit. You may use the tag printed at the bottom of the page.
5. Fill out a record sheet and bring it with your exhibit to the fair.

NAME _____
GRADE (as of Jan. 1) _____
PROJECT _____
DIVISION _____
SCHOOL ATTENDING _____

Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when enrolling in Mini 4-H. This manual and the manuals on various other topics will provide fun age appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information within this manual. Some children may choose to exhibit their project at the 4-H fair. The 4-H fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please feel free to contact your local Extension office.

Mini 4-H'ers Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things, which you can share with your family and friends.

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H Symbol: The symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is a plant that grows in fields, yards, and along roadsides. Most clovers only have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look closely you may get lucky and find a clover with four leaves. A four leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.



The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group.

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best better." When something is better than all of the others it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you, to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before there are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.

The 4-H Pledge

A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is in bold print below. Under each line of the pledge there are words telling what the pledge means.

I pledge my head  to clearer thinking.

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my heart  to greater loyalty.

to use my heart to be a good friend.

my hands  to larger service, and
to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

my health  to better living.

to take care of my body and to show others how to live in a healthy way.

for my club, my community,  my country, and my world.

to help my group, my community, my country, and my world be happy and safe for everyone.

FLOWERS FROM SEEDS:

If you choose to grow your flowers from seeds, you will probably want to choose zinnias or marigolds because these are the easiest to grow. Remember to plant only as many as you can care for.

First you and your parents must decide where you will plant your flowers. You may have a spot in the garden, yard, flower box, or flower pot. Where you plant them may make a difference in your choice of flowers. All growing things need light, water, and food, but some need more than others. Some need more water, and some can live on less food which means they can live in poor soil. These are things you will talk with your parents or gardening friends about.

Next you will need to prepare a seed bed or a place for your flowers. If your spot is in the garden or yard, pick up all the trash and get ready for spading. If tools are too heavy for you, ask an adult to help. You usually spade or plow six to eight inches deep. Rake the dirt until you have a fine, level seed bed and all the large pieces of dirt are broken up.

If you are planting seeds, do what it says on the package. It will tell you how deep and how far apart to plant the seeds. This is very important. Be very careful and do not cover marigold or zinnia seeds more than 1/4 of an inch!

How excited you will be when the first blooms come in! For zinnias, that will be between 65 to 90 days after they are planted. For marigolds, the blooms usually take 30 to 45 days. If you want your plants to grow well, you must keep down the weeds! Pull them up or kill them as you hoe. If you do this often, it is not difficult. You may need to loosen the soil around the plants by hoeing or raking. Your parent or garden friends will show you how to do this. If Mother Nature does not send you some rain, you will have to water your plants.

All of this can be fun, but the most pleasant part of growing your own flowers comes when you share them with others. When you cut your flowers, try to cut them in the morning right after they have opened. Cut them with a sharp knife or scissors, then take off the lower leaves. Put them in a bucket or can of warm water. The water should come 1/3 of the way up the stems. Put these in a cool place for about two hours. Now the flowers will be crisp and fresh when you arrange them.

Growing Plants from Seedlings

How To:

1. Get seedling plants of petunias, marigolds, or zinnias from the garden store or use the plants you have grown.
2. Spade and prepare a garden plot or use a large flower pit or window box to plant your seedlings in. If you use a container, be sure it has a hole in the bottom for drainage. Put a layer of gravel in the bottom one inch deep. Fill with a soil mix prepared in the following ratio; one cup garden soil, one cup sphagnum peat moss, and one cup sand. It is best to use sterilized garden soil because weed seeds and disease organisms are often in garden soil. However, the size of the container may make this too expensive.
3. Carefully remove the seedlings from the containers they came in. If they are growing in peat pots, you can plant the container with the plant. Be sure to plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in their original container. If you use plants in peat pots, the top rim of the pot will act as a "wick" and evaporate water out of the soil around the roots of the plant. Remove this rim to the soil level.
4. After you have planted your seedlings, water them with diluted fertilized solution. An example is one tablespoon of high phosphate fertilizer (10-52-17 or similar analysis) in one gallon of water. Put one cup of the solution around each plant.
5. Flowering plants usually require some water each day if it does not rain. However, at first they may need watering several times a day until they become established. Watch the plants, and water carefully. Over-watering can be as harmful as under-watering. Watering plants in a container requires more judgment and care than watering plants in a garden bed.
6. Be sure to place your containers in a sunny location.
7. Carefully remove weeds as they grow. Weeds compete with plants for space, nutrients and water.



TABLE ONE. ANNUALS TO GROW FROM SEEDS:

Plant	Planting Time	Germination Time (days)	Plant Spacing (inches)
Ageratum	Late Spring	5	10-12
Aster	Late Spring	10	12-14
Calendula	Early Spring	7	10-12
Cockscomb	Late Spring	10	10-12
Cosmos	Late Spring	5	10-12
Four O'clock	Late Spring	5	12-14
Marigold	Late Spring	5	10-14
Nasturtium	Late Spring	8	8-12
Phlox	Early Spring	10	6-8
Sunflower	Late Spring	5	12-14
Zinnia	Late Spring	5	8-12



TABLE TWO. FLOWERS TO GROW FROM TRANSPLANTS:

Plant	Exposure	Plant Spacing (inches)
Coleus	Sun	10-12
Dahlia	Semi-Shade	12-14
Geranium	Full Sun	12-18
Impatiens	Semi-Shade	10-12
	Full Sun	
Pansy	Full Sun	68-
	Semi-Shade	
Petunia	Full Sun	12-14
Salvia	Full Sun	8-12
Snapdragon	Full Sun	6-10
Verbena	Full Sun	18-24
Zinnia	Full Sun	8-12

HOUSE PLANTS:

If you choose to buy a house plant, ask your parents or a gardening friend to help you pick it out. Grandparents are usually good at this to!

If you buy your plant at a nursery, the person helping you at the nursery can help you make your choice. You can also buy these plants at most grocery stores. Maybe, your parents already have some plants and could give you a start from one of theirs.

Your plant will already be in the proper size pot and right soil mixture if you buy it from a nursery or grocery store. If not, ask what size pot would be best.

Put some pebbles or pieces of broken clay pots in the bottom of the pots for drainage. Then, put about one inch of potting soil over this. The best soil to use is a mixture of 1/4 sand, 1/4 peat moss, 1/2 soil from the woods or the yard. Put the plant roots on the top of the soil and pour more soil around it. Leave about 1/2 to 1 inch of the rim of the pot above the soil. Pack the soil around the plant and water.

Ask your parents or gardening friends about watering the plant and about where to put it.

SELECTING FLOWERS FOR EXHIBIT

In selecting flowers for exhibit, be sure the bloom is fresh and has all petals perfect and evenly arranged. The entire plant should be clean with no evidence of disease, insect or mechanical damage. The stem should be straight and strong enough to support the bloom.

When you cut the flowers, try to cut them in the morning right after they have opened. Cut them with a sharp knife or scissors, then take off the lower leaves. Put them in a bucket or can of warm water. The water should come 1/3 of the way up on the stems. Put these in a cool place for about two hours. Now the flowers will be crisp and fresh when you arrange them!

RECORD SHEET
MINI 4-H FLOWERS

Name _____ Grade _____
Address _____ Division _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
School Attending _____

Please answer the following questions about your Mini 4-H Flowers project. Attach this completed record sheet to your exhibit.

What did you learn from this project? _____

List below the information about your flowers or plant you cared for:

Name of Flower	Date Planted	Date First Bloom
_____	_____	_____

I bought and cared for this house plant:

Name of Plant	Date Purchased	Place Purchased
_____	_____	_____

The garden flowers I learned to identify are:

The wild flowers I learned to identify are:

List the people who helped you with this project:

We hope you enjoyed working with your Mini 4-H Flower project. Keep up the enthusiasm and when you are in the third grade you can have more fun by joining a 4-H club, and continue with the Floriculture project or enroll in other projects.

If you have any questions with your Mini 4-H project you can call or stop in the Extension Office. Our phone number is 736-3724 and we are located in the Wright Building, 80 S. Jackson Street, in Franklin.