

# 4-H Gardening Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

## OVERVIEW

The 4-H Gardening Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn to demonstrate proper care of plants, landscaping techniques and develop an appreciation for the aesthetic values of ornamentals around the home.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Lassen County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there are any horticultural groups or organizations in your community that conduct educational activities and shows. Local groups are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of gardening.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in the gardening area.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced gardener.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of gardening, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

# GARDENING

## Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Start a small garden.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Start at least three of your plants from seed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Name the three layers of soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Name the particles that make up the three layers of soil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Name three root vegetables and tell what makes them a root.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Know the life cycle of a plant starting with seed and ending with mature plant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explain the basics of photosynthesis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Name the male and female part of a flower.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Discuss why air, water and light are important to your plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Name two pros of a chemical pesticide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Name two cons of a chemical pesticide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Find and use an organic way of fighting insect pests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Make a poster with something to do with gardening. Enter this in a county event or fair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Give a demonstration at County Presentation Day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GARDENING**  
**Level II - Producer**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name the parts of a plant.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name four plant growth factors.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What effect do these four growth factors have on the plant?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Add four more types of plants to your garden.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Explain the purpose of the cotyledon(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why are diseases a problem in growing plants?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Explain what is meant by perfect and imperfect flowers.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Collect seeds of vegetables, field crops, flowers, shrubs and trees. Save seeds from fruit of tomato, apples etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Mount and label the seeds you have collected.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Experiment with at least two types of fertilizer, then tell which you prefer and why.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Explain in what way animals and plants tend to balance each other in nature.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Collect and enter at least five of your home grown vegetables in a fair.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Visit a grocery store and record the different varieties of the same fruit and vegetable offered (example: red, yellow, eating, cooking)  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Make a poster having something to do with gardening. Then enter it in the fair or talk about your poster in front of a group.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Give a demonstration at County Presentation Day.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GARDENING Level III - Consumer

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. List four types of plant diseases and tell how to control them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name parts of the flower and tell their functions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Explain sexual and asexual reproduction of a plant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Cross breed a plant (example: cross a pumpkin and spaghetti squash).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Try propagation by rhizomes or stolons and then discuss it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Explain in your own words how fertilizer helps to grow plants. Also list any precautions that you think should be taken when using fertilizer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Write 300 words about plant growth factors or destruction of plants by animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Have your soil tested and see what needs to be improved.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Keep a list of cash expenses, time and labor charges. At the end of the growing season, compare your crop yield to your expenses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Give a demonstration at County Presentation Day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GARDENING**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for such an event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Assist at a horticultural event in your community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Assist younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your findings.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GARDENING**  
**Level V - Researcher**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (Experiment)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
  - Management of plants
  - Fertilization
  - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation
  - Markets and methods of marketing
  - Reproduction, breeding, and genetics
  - By-product preparation for market, how marketed and used
  - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your plant project
  - Other
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Gardening Proficiency  
in Lassen County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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