



To: All Currently Enrolled 4-H Families
From: Kathleen E. Jablonski, Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development
Date: January 17, 2011

2011 County 4-H Gardening Program

Keep this packet for future reference

What better way to celebrate spring? Plant a garden! The Annual 4-H Garden Program is getting ready to begin.

About the program:

- ⇒ Members are given flower and vegetable seeds to plant.
- ⇒ They complete a garden plan and project page.
- ⇒ Gardens are **evaluated** by the local club project leader and later **photographed** by your club’s leader
- ⇒ An awards night, with a variety of contests, is planned for October 7, 2011.



This year’s contest is sponsored by Blackmount Equipment, The Green Thumb, Marilyn Fuller, Grafton County 4-H Leaders’ Association and an anonymous sponsor.

How do you participate?

1. **Read the enclosed instructions carefully.**
2. Notify the 4-H office if you wish to participate.
3. **The registration deadline is February 18, 2011 at 3:30pm.**
4. Attend educational meetings with your local project leader, read the Garden Gazette, or call the 4-H office for resources to learn how to help your garden grow!



Demonstration Garden Workshop Series to be offered!

Heather Bryant, Agricultural Resources Educator, along with Master Gardeners and other knowledgeable individuals, will be offering a series of workshops.

Watch your *Garden Gazette* for a schedule of programs in various locations in the county.

If a 4-H garden project member attends one of the workshops, their name will be put into a drawing for a special prize to be awarded at Garden Awards Night, October 7, 2011.
You must be present to win

Note: If there is more than one 4-H'er in the family, each must have their own spot, clearly marked, in the garden. Gardeners must plant all the varieties in their division.

Keep this packet for future reference

INFORMATION FOR ALL GARDENING PROGRAMS

1. To receive full credit, participants must plant and attempt to grow all varieties unless substitutes are approved by the office.
2. If for any reason seeds fail to germinate, please notify your garden leader / organizational leader / 4-H office so that notations can be made on your score sheets and extra seeds can be obtained (if available).
3. Senior gardeners must plant additional varieties to receive full credit.
4. If you decide not to plant, return the seeds to the office!
5. Participants must do their own planting, weeding, cultivation, transplanting, harvesting, and other handwork. Parents may **only assist** in the preparation of the soil prior to planting. Each individual participant must maintain his or her individual plots within family plot areas. **Be sure to clearly mark each family member's spot for judging purposes.**
6. Participants must send a **4-H Vegetable, Flower and/or Container Garden Plan** to be received by the 4-H office by June 10th at 3:30pm. Gardens will not be evaluated or judged unless a garden plan is received. These plans are necessary for you to be judged and for determining tie breakers in the event of a tie score.
7. A 4-H Project Page for **each garden** must be submitted to the 4-H office prior to September 1st at 3:30pm. **Only members who have submitted all of their paperwork and a project page by the September 1st deadline will be considered for top awards in the County Contest.**
8. Feel free to call on local resources, including Master Gardeners' and those in the area of agriculture / farm business, for support. Information is available at www.extension.unh.edu/FHGEC.

DIVISIONS AND RECOGNITION



Each garden program has 4 divisions: Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

1. **CLOVERBUD (5 – 7 years of age)** - Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate in a non-competitive gardening experience. All youth with gardens in this division will receive a Cloverbud participation certificate. Cloverbud gardens are not judged or reviewed. Participation ribbons will be given to everyone in this division.
2. **JUNIORS (8 to 11 years old and 1st year gardeners), INTERMEDIATES (12 + 13 years old), SENIORS (14 and over)** – The top 3 scores in each division will receive rosettes. The first place winners in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions will receive a special award. The 4-H Project Page, Thank You Note and Garden Plan must be completed to be considered for a top gardening award.
3. Garden ribbons will be awarded on the Danish system (Blue, Red and White) to all participants in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions based on their garden score.
4. Individuals who participate in this program, but who do not complete all portions of the program will receive a certificate of participation.
5. You may enter our **Garden Journal Contest**. The winner of this optional contest will receive an award at the garden awards night. The journal must be submitted to the office by 3:30pm on September 10th, and should include entries from this year and may include previous year's journal entries also. See Garden Journal Fact Sheet for more information.



JUDGING PROCESS for 2011

1. Pre-judging will be done in mid July by the Garden Project leader from the 4-H'er's club. A list of all club members who signed up to garden will be sent to the leader by the first week in July. The Garden Leader will then return the list of 4-H'ers who qualify for the final judging to the office by July 15th.
2. Final judging will be done by a series of photos taken during the week of August 14-20, 2011, by your club's 4-H Garden Project Leader. Photos may be digital or film.

For in the ground gardens, a total of **at least four** pictures should be submitted:

- One picture of the whole garden
- One picture of between the rows
- 2 pictures of individual plants

For container gardens, a total of **at least four** pictures should be submitted:

- One picture should be taken of the whole container garden from a side view
- One from a top view
- Two pictures of individual plants in the container garden

Pictures may be digital or film and must be submitted to the 4-H Office no later than 3:30 p.m. on **Friday, August 26th**. **No late photos will be accepted.**

Garden is judged at the stage that it is at. Final judging score will be judged by the pictures submitted.



VEGETABLE CONTEST

sponsored by Blackmount Equipment, Inc.

Each registered participant will receive free seed packets, compliments of Blackmount Equipment. Seed varieties may change due to availability. There are four divisions in the Blackmount Vegetable Program.

- **CLOVERBUD (5-7 years of age):** All youth with gardens in this division will receive a Cloverbud participation certificate. Cloverbud gardens are not judged or reviewed. Participants will receive the following seeds:

Radish	Simpson's Black Seeded Lettuce
Carrots	
- **JUNIOR (8-11 years of age or 1st year gardeners):** Participants will receive the following vegetable seeds:

Radish	Simpson's Black Seeded Lettuce
Carrots	Purple Beans
Cucumber	Summer Squash
- **INTERMEDIATE (12-13 years of age):** Seeds include:

Radish	Romaine Lettuce
Carrots	Green Beans
Beets	Onion Sets+
Cucumber	Zucchini Squash

- **SENIOR (14-18 years of age):** Members in this division must meet 2 criteria:
 - 1) Be at least 14 years of age by 1/1/10
 - 2) Have participated in either the Junior or Intermediate division for at least one year. Seeds include:

Beets	Spinach
Carrots	Pole Beans
Cucumber	Onion Sets+
Winter Squash	Watermelon
Pumpkin (pie)	Cauliflower
Corn	Tomato Plants (provided)**

Tomato plants will be available to all senior participants, compliments of Marilyn Fuller. Vouchers will be given to each senior division participant to pick up plants at a later date. (Tomatoes may be started from seed. Tomato **seeds will not be provided by a sponsor.)

+ Onion sets will be available to intermediate and senior participants, compliments of Marilyn Fuller.



FLOWER GARDEN CONTEST

Sponsored by The Green Thumb

Each participant will receive free packages of flower seeds compliments of The Green Thumb. A thank you note must be sent to The Green Thumb.

There will be four divisions in this year's flower program.

- **CLOVERBUD (5-7 years of age):** These members will receive the following seeds:

Allysum	Marigold	Nasturtium
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- **JUNIOR (8-11 years of age or 1st year gardeners):** Varieties to be planted include:

Allysum	Marigold
Zinnias	Dwarf Sunflowers (about 3 ½ feet)
Nasturtium	
- **INTERMEDIATE (12 + 13 years of age):** For those 4-H members who participate competitively and have participated one or more years in the Flower Garden Program. Varieties to be planted:

Allysum	Marigold
Bachelor Buttons	Sweet Pea
Cosmos	Tall Zinnias
Dwarf Sunflowers (about 3 ½ feet)	
- **SENIOR (14-18 years of age):** For those 4-H members who have participated one or more years competitively in the Flower Garden Program. Senior members **MUST grow at least one additional variety of flower seed to obtain full credit for creativity.** Varieties to be planted:

Allysum	Marigold
Bachelor Buttons	Asters
Dianthos (Sweet Williams)	Cosmos
Morning Glory	Dwarf Sunflowers (3 ½ feet)



CONTAINER GARDEN CONTEST

Sponsored by an anonymous donor

Container gardening is the same as regular gardening. You must properly plan for the container you will be using and exercise the good garden practices you do for a regular garden. Seed selection, fertilization, proper drainage, and weed control are the same. The best part of this is that you can pick up and move the container to another part of your property – deck, patio or lawn to create a different landscape.

Use your imagination, follow member guidelines for gardening. Most of all “be creative”.

Each participant in this program will receive funds to purchase seeds. The number of packets is determined by the division entered CB, J, I, S.

For all divisions:

1. Container can be any shape or size, but must have a total of at least 7 square inches of space.
2. Use at least the minimum number of plants (listed below). The minimum number of plants must be started from seed.
3. Youth are encouraged to add plants of their choice. Gardeners may include additional plants not grown from seed.
4. Members are encouraged to grow up to three container gardens. At the time of judging, members need to choose the containers, containing the correct number of plants, they wish to have judged.
5. Gardeners are encouraged to enter one container garden at the North Haverhill Fair. Be aware your plants may suffer due to conditions in the exhibit hall.
6. Gardeners are encouraged to grow separate container gardens for North Haverhill Fair and the garden program.
7. Props may be added.
8. Seeds/plants may be vegetable, flower and/or herb varieties.
9. Additional “plants” may be added, however, you must have at least one plant started from each packet of seed purchased. All plants must be included on garden plan. Please indicate on your plan which plants were started from seeds.

There will be four divisions in this year’s container gardening program.

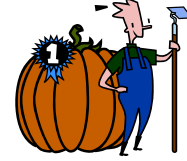
- **CLOVERBUD (5-7 years of age)**
At least five (5) plants, started from seed, must be used.
Participants will receive funds for 2 packages of seeds.
- **JUNIOR (8-11 years of age or 1st year gardeners)**
At least six (6) plants, started from seed, must be used.
Participants will receive funds for 2 packages of seeds.
Use at least two varieties of plants in your garden.
- **INTERMEDIATE (12+13 years of age)**
At least seven (7) plants, started from seed, must be used.
Use at least three (3) different varieties of plants in your garden.
Participants will receive funds for 3 packages of seeds.
- **SENIOR (14-18 years of age)**
At least eight (8) plants, started from seed, must be used.
Use at least four (4) different varieties of plants in your garden.
Participants will receive funds for 4 packages of seeds.



GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

Sponsored by Blackmount Equipment

1. Each participant in the Garden Program is eligible to compete in the Giant Pumpkin Contest. Only those youth enrolled in the garden project will be allowed to participate in this contest.
2. Blackmount provides participating members with 3 Giant Pumpkin seeds, which are grown throughout the summer and harvested for the County Gardening Awards Night in October. The record pumpkin is 285lbs.
3. Participants must grow their own pumpkin.
4. **Entries must be grown from the seeds provided by the 4-H office.**
5. 4-H'ers will be asked to bring their largest pumpkin to the Garden Awards Program in the fall. Limit one entry per member.
6. The winning entry will be determined by weight only.
7. Contestants must be present at the awards program to receive recognition. Special ribbons will be given out to the 3 largest pumpkins along with participation ribbons to all participants who enter a pumpkin at the Awards Program.
8. Watch future issues of the Garden Gazette for information on how to grow giant pumpkins.



GIANT SUNFLOWER CONTEST

Sponsored by The Green Thumb

1. All participants must be enrolled in either the vegetable or flower or container garden program to participate in the process.
2. Participants will receive a package of 5 giant sunflower seeds.
3. Each participant must grow their own sunflower.
4. **The entries must be grown from the seeds provided.**
5. Every participant must have successfully completed either a 4-H flower, container or vegetable garden.
6. The winning participant will be determined by the size of the seed core (head) only. The top 3 will receive rosettes, with special recognition for first place winner. Everyone will receive a participation ribbon.
7. Only one entry per 4-H member.
8. Participants must be present at awards program to receive recognition.



SEED DISTRIBUTION

Project leaders need to arrange for seed pickup at the Extension Office after Monday, March 28, 2011.

PAPERWORK

Record keeping and meeting deadlines are part of your commitment, and are essential for the learning process of our members.

1. You must return the “4-H Vegetable, Flower, and Container Garden Plan”. This form will be due by 3:30pm to the County Office on June 10th. The dates these plans are received will be used to determine award placement in the event of a tie after the gardens are judged.
2. **Thank you notes need to be received by the sponsors by June 10th.**
3. **All members participating in the contest must fill out the “4-H Project Page” for each garden.**
4. All gardening participants will be expected to return all remaining paperwork by 3:30pm, September 1st to be considered for awards. The date Garden Plans are received will determine award placement in the event of a tie.
5. On all thank you notes please clearly print your first and last name along with your club name.
6. Points for paperwork will be awarded upon receipt at the UNH Cooperative Extension office. Thank you notes will be recorded by the sponsors, and then sent to the office. **Only paperwork which is received by the deadline will receive full credit.**

Item	Due Date	Paperwork Received On Time	Never Completed
Garden Plan	June 10 th	5 points	Not eligible for top award
Thank You Note	June 10 th	5 points	Not eligible for top award
Thank You Note – (Senior and Intermediate Vegetable Gardeners Only)	June 10 th	5 points (to Marilyn Fuller) AND 5 points (to Blackmount Equip.)	Not eligible for top award
Pictures (sent by Garden Project Leaders)	August 26 th		
Project Page	Sept. 1 st	10 points	Not eligible for top award
Garden Journal	Sept. 1 st	Eligible for special award	

~ No paperwork accepted after September 1st by 3:30 pm ~

All paperwork that is to be sent to the 4-H office can be mailed to the following address.

Mail to: Kathleen E. Jablonski, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
 UNH Cooperative Extension
 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, Box 5
 North Haverhill, NH 03774

THANK YOU NOTES

Part of your overall score will include points for writing a "thank you" note to the sponsor(s).



1. Please write your full name along with the name of your club.
2. Each participant **must** write their own individual thank you note.
3. **If you purchase any of your own plants or seeds, a thank you note to all applicable sponsors is still expected!** For example: "Thank you for offering to provide my gardening seed, however I decided to use some seeds that my grandmother bought for me."

Send your thank you note for the vegetable seeds to: Raymond Aremburg
Blackmount Equipment, Inc.
2924 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774

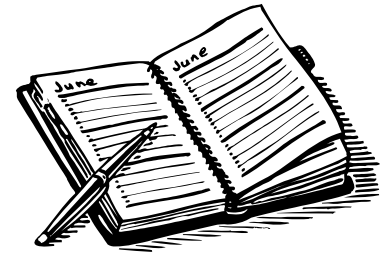
Send your thank you note for the flower seeds to: Priscilla Brown
The Green Thumb
Route 116
North Haverhill, NH 03774

Please send thank you notes for tomatoes and onion sets to: Marilyn Fuller
(even if you purchase your own tomatoes) 254 Round Pond Lane
Newbury, VT 05051

Please send thank you notes for container garden seeds to: Container Garden Sponsor
c/o Grafton County 4-H Office
3855 DCH, Box 5
North Haverhill, NH 03774

All thank you notes are due to sponsors by June 10th

2011 TIMELINE



FEBRUARY 18	Gardening Program Registration Deadline
MARCH 28	Seeds available at Extension Office
APRIL – MAY	Plant seeds
JUNE 10	Gardening plans due in 4-H Office. “PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE”
JUNE 10	Thank you notes to sponsors are due.
JULY 15	Garden pre-judging checklist done by Club/Garden Leader due to the office
JULY 27 – 31	North Haverhill Fair – Enter a Container Garden!
Week of AUGUST 14-20	Garden judging photo’s to be completed by 4-H Garden Project Leaders
AUGUST 26	All photos due to the 4-H Office by 3:30pm
SEPTEMBER 1	4-H Project Pages due (for Flower, Vegetable and Container Gardens) in the 4-H Office by 3:30pm
SEPTEMBER 1	(Optional) Garden Journal due to the 4-H Office by 3:30pm in order to be considered for the special award.
OCTOBER 7	County 4-H Gardening Awards Night at Blackmount Equipment in North Haverhill: Giant Pumpkin Contest Giant Sunflower Contest Pumpkin and Vegetable Decorating Contest

Please feel free to contact the office with questions or comments. Resources are available through UNH Cooperative Extension / 4-H and Agriculture staff. Give us a shout if you need support!

THANKS AND LET’S GET GROWING!