**Why Garden?**

While you are outside enjoying the fresh air, use your gardening experience to help you learn more about: growing plants, food and nutrition, soil science, nature, working together, pest management, community service, time management, failure and success, and most importantly… how to have fun Learning By Doing!

**How do you participate in the Garden Program?**

1. **Read** the enclosed instructions carefully.
2. **Register** for the Garden Program by simply attending the Garden Party on Saturday, April 6, 2019. If you are not able to attend, please contact the office to sign up for the program.
3. **Attend** the drop-in Garden Party, 9:00am to 12:00pm to pick up your seeds. There will be several different activities happening during the morning as well. As a courtesy, please **RSVP** to the office by Friday, March 29th. This will help to ensure that we have enough supplies for everyone attending the event.
4. **Plant** your seeds.
5. **Look** for additional learning activities to increase your gardening knowledge during the summer.
6. **Write** thank you notes to all our sponsors during the month of June.
7. **Enter** something from your garden in the North Haverhill Fair (entries are due June 15th).
8. **Harvest** your cucumbers and **Make** your pickles.
9. **Complete** the optional *Grafton County 4-H Gardening Booklet* by the September 11th deadline.
10. **Participate** in the October 4-H Family Fall Festival, at Blackmount Equipment in North Haverhill: Giant Pumpkin Contest, Giant Sunflower Contest, Pickle Challenge, Pumpkin and Vegetable Decorating Contest, games and activities for the whole family, and more!

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture and N.H. counties cooperating.
Your attendance at the Garden Party will automatically register you for the Grafton County 4-H Garden Program this year. No forms to fill out! However, you are asked to please RSVP to the office by Friday, March 29th. This will help to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone during the party. If you are unable to attend, please contact the office to arrange pick up of your seeds. Leftover seeds will be available after the Garden Party.

SEEDS PROVIDED

FREE seeds will be provided on a first come, first served basis at the Garden Party.

Based on age group, participants will be provided with their choice of:

- CLOVERBUD (5-7 years of age): 3 seed packets
- JUNIOR (8-11 years of age): 5 seed packets
- INTERMEDIATE (12-13 years of age): 7 seed packets
- SENIOR (14-18 years of age): 9 seed packets

GENERAL GARDENING PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. If for any reason seeds fail to germinate, please notify your 4-H leader or the 4-H office so extra seeds can be obtained (if available).
2. Garden booklets are available at the Garden Party, or you may contact the office to get your copy.
3. If you decide not to plant, we ask that you please return the seeds to the office so others can use them.
4. One Grafton County 4-H Gardening Booklet per person may be submitted prior to 3pm on September 11, 2019. Only members who have submitted a completed Grafton County 4-H Gardening Booklet by the September deadline will be considered for gardening booklet special recognition.
5. Feel free to call on local resources, including Master Gardeners’ and those in the area of agriculture/farm business. Information is available at https://extension.unh.edu/programs/ask-unh-extension.

GARDENING BOOKLET SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special garden awards will be handed out at the Family Fall Festival in October. Those members who complete the Grafton County 4-H Gardening Booklet and submit it to the office by the deadline are eligible for these awards.

Please note: Completion of the Gardening Booklet is optional and will not prevent you from being able to participate in the Grafton County 4-H Gardening Program.
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 at the Family Fall Festival. Limit one entry per member.

2. Blackmount Equipment provides participating members with Giant Pumpkin seeds, which are grown throughout the summer and harvested for the Family Fall Festival night in October. The record pumpkin is 285lbs.

3. Call the office for giant pumpkin growing suggestions.

4. Participants must grow their own pumpkin.

5. **Entries must be grown from the seeds provided by the 4-H office.**

6. The winning entry will be determined by weight only.

7. Contestants must be present at the festival 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.

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GIANT SUNFLOWER CONTEST
Sponsored by the Grafton County 4-H Leaders’ Association

1. All participants must be enrolled in the garden program to participate in the giant sunflower contest.

2. Participants will be given a packet of giant sunflower seeds.

3. Each participant must grow their own sunflower.

4. **The entries must be grown from the seeds provided.**

5. The winning participant will be determined by the size of the seed core (head) only. The top 3 will receive rosettes. Everyone will receive a participation ribbon.

6. Only one entry per 4-H member.

7. Participants must be present at the 4-H Fall Festival to receive recognition.
Nontraditional Sweet Freezer Pickles

This is not your typical pickle recipe. No special equipment or ingredients are needed.

This recipe produces a crisp, sweet pickle that goes well in salads, on sandwiches or as a side. The secret to the crisp texture is the sugar, so do not reduce the sugar in the recipe. This recipe works well with slicing, pickling, seedless or hothouse cucumbers.

2 quarts cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced (use any variety of cucumber)
1 medium onion, sliced thinly
1 tablespoon salt (table salt, canning salt or kosher salt can be used)
1-1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup white distilled vinegar

Mix cucumbers, onions and salt in a large bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Set the bowl on the counter for 2 hours. Pour into a colander and drain water from cucumber mixture. Combine sugar and vinegar. Stir well and pour over cucumbers. Pack into freezer containers or zip-closure bags. Freeze immediately. Pickles are ready to eat in 3 or 4 days. They will keep in the freezer for up to one year.

PICKLE CHALLENGE
Sponsored by the Haverhill Garden Club

1. All participants must be enrolled in the Garden Program to participate in the pickle challenge.

2. Youth attending the Garden Party will have a chance to view a demonstration about the Pickle Challenge.

3. Participants will be given cucumber seeds to plant in their gardens. Each participant must grow their own cucumbers and entries must be grown from the seeds provided.

4. Youth will harvest cucumbers from their garden and create freezer pickles using the recipe provided below. Pickles must be made from the cucumbers grown by the 4-H’er. Participants must use this recipe, but can feel free to add spices to create their own unique flavor. Pickles can be made at harvest time and frozen for the contest at the Fall Festival.

5. Youth should take the pickles out of the freezer two days before the Fall Festival event and store them in a 40°F (or cooler) refrigerator. If traveling a distance, transport the pickles in a cooler with ice packs.

6. Participants will bring one container of pickles, with a list of ingredients used, to the Fall Festival in October. (Limit of one entry per 4-H member.)

7. Participants must be present at the 4-H Fall Festival to receive recognition.

8. Awards will be given based on taste, flavor, texture, and overall appearance of pickles. Top honors will be announced, and everyone will receive a participation ribbon.
Each participant at the Garden Party may choose from a variety of FREE seed packets. These will include vegetables, flowers and herbs. These seeds will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Additionally, you may choose to purchase your own seeds or plants to grow in your garden.

**Important note:** Whether you use the free seed packets or purchase your own, **all garden participants are expected to write notes of thanks to all of our garden program sponsors.**

Thank you for all you do for 4-H! I am glad this program is available to me. I can’t wait to get my garden growing! I’m excited to try ...

Thanks again,

Sally Sue
of the Happy Helpers 4-H Club

Raymond Aremburg
Blackmount Equipment, Inc.
2924 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH  03774
*(Sponsor provides a venue for our Fall Festival, Giant Pumpkin seeds and ribbons, and awards for the Garden Booklet entries)*

The Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.
Attn:  Donation Department
304 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT  06109
*(Sponsor provides garden seeds for our program)*

Grafton County 4-H Leaders’ Association
c/o Grafton County UNHCE
3855 DCH, Box 5
North Haverhill, NH  03774
*(Sponsor provides Giant Sunflower seeds and ribbons, and other program costs throughout the year)*

Haverhill Garden Club
c/o Polly Marvin
P.O. Box 65
Piermont, NH  03779
*(Sponsor provides Pickle Challenge seeds and recognition, and other program costs)*
RESOURCES

Please feel free to contact the 4-H office with any questions: (603) 787-6944.

For more information on pickles, view the West Virginia University Extension webpage - https://extension.wvu.edu/files/d/05eb5d88-634e-4d05-ade7-c6a8fd8c0118/pickles.pdf

The UNH Extension Infoline, staffed by professionals and trained Master Gardener volunteers is a great resource:

Call toll-free – 1-877-398-4769 (9am to 2pm)

E-mail – answers@unh.edu

Explore the webpage - https://extension.unh.edu/programs/ask-unh-extension.