



To: All Currently Enrolled 4-H Families
From: Kathleen E. Jablonski, Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development
Date: February 3, 2010

2010 County 4-H Gardening Program

Keep this packet for future reference

What better way to celebrate spring? Plant a garden! The Annual 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 **judged** by someone representing the UNH Cooperative Extension Office.
- ⇒ An awards night, with a variety of contests, is planned for October 8, 2010.

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 your leader if you wish to participate.
3. **The registration deadline is March 12, 2010 at 3:30pm.**
4. Pick up your seeds on April 17th following the Green Thumb Workshop.
5. 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!

On Saturday, April 17th , Priscilla Brown will be conducting a demonstration at the Green Thumb on Route 116 in North Haverhill.

Demonstration starts at 1:00 p.m. (approx. 2 hours), Seed Distribution will be 3:00 – 3:30pm
Priscilla will be happy to answer any questions or help with gardening advice after the demonstration.



Demonstration Topics May Include:

- Planting Seeds
- Transplanting Seedlings
- Discussion of Soil Types
- Container Gardening
- Mulching



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 4th at 3:30pm; gardens will not be evaluated or judged unless a garden plan is received. **Late paperwork will receive partial credit (lower points).** 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 10th at 3:30pm. **Only members who have submitted all of their paperwork and a project page by the September 10th 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.



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 a voucher for packages of seeds. The number of packets is determined by the division entered CB, J, I, S. If you wish to purchase your own seeds, you may, but a thank you note should still be sent to the sponsor, in order to be considered for top gardener awards.

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 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 a voucher 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 a voucher 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 a voucher 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 a voucher 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.**

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.

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

All seeds and vouchers will be available for pick up at the conclusion of the Garden Workshop on April 17th. Project leaders need to arrange seed pickup at the Extension Office after Monday, April 19th if you do not attend the Garden Workshop.

PAPERWORK

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

1. If you want your garden judged, you must return the “4-H Vegetable, Flower, and Container Garden Plan”. This form will be due at 3:30p.m. to the County Office on June 4th . The dates these plans are received will be used to determine award placement in the event of a tie.
2. **Thank you notes need to be received by the sponsors by June 4th .**

All members participating in the contest must fill out the “4-H Project Page” for each garden.

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.

3. All gardening participants will be expected to return all remaining paperwork by 3:30 p.m., September 10th to be considered for awards. The date Garden Plans are received will determine award placement in the event of a tie.
4. **Please provide a map and written directions to your garden using street names in relation to town roads, along with your telephone number. Please be sure to include your “911” address.**
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	Paperwork Received On Time	Late Paperwork (No paperwork accepted after September 10 th by 3:30 pm)	Never Completed
Garden Plan	5 points	2 points	Not eligible for top award
Thank You Note	5 points	2 points	Not eligible for top award
Thank You Note – (Senior and Intermediate Vegetable Gardeners Only)	5 points (to Marilyn Fuller) AND 5 points (to Blackmount Equip.)	2 pts (to Marilyn Fuller) 2 pts (to Blackmount Equipment)	Not eligible for top award
Project Page	10 points	Not accepted (Not eligible for top award)	Not eligible for top award
Garden Journal	Eligible for special award	Not accepted	

~ No paperwork accepted after September 10th 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."

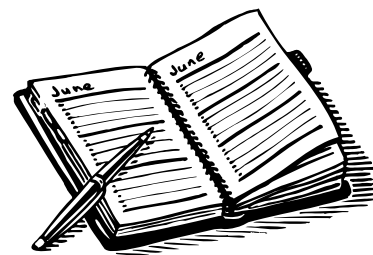
Send your thank you note for the vegetable seeds to: Raymond Aremburg
Blackmount Equipment, Inc.
2924 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774

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
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

2010 TIMELINE



MARCH 12	Gardening Program Registration Deadline
APRIL 17	Workshop at The Green Thumb in North Haverhill & Seed Distribution (following the program)
APRIL – MAY	Plant seeds
JUNE 4	Gardening plans due in 4-H Office along with a map including phone numbers, street names, and 911 addresses to your garden location. “PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE”
JUNE 4	Thank you notes to sponsors are due.
JULY 9	Garden judging check by Club/Garden Leader (lists are due to the office)
JULY 28 – AUGUST 1	North Haverhill Fair
Month of AUGUST	Garden judging completed by 4-H County Garden Coordinator
SEPTEMBER 10	4-H Project Pages due (for Flower, Vegetable and Container Gardens) in the 4-H Office by 3:30pm
SEPTEMBER 10	(Optional) Garden Journal due to the 4-H Office by 3:30pm in order to be considered for the special award.
OCTOBER 8	County 4-H Gardening Awards Night at Blackmount Equipment in North Haverhill

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!

Garden Journal Fact Sheet

Keeping a written garden journal is the best way to give a history to your garden and to validate your progress as a gardener.

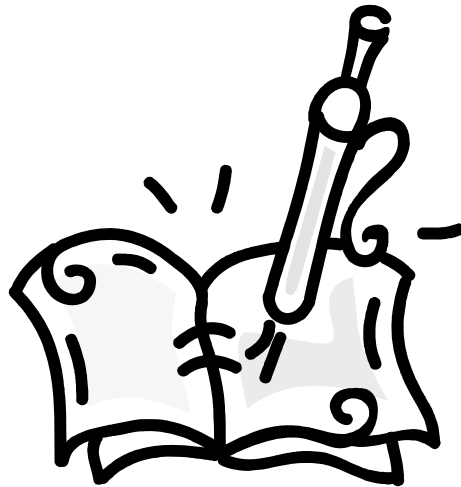
Use a journal to describe the success or failure of your project. By keeping a journal you will have a handle on what you need to do another year to have a more successful garden.

Some gardeners' document when they plant, weed, fertilize, do pest and disease treatment, and when they have their first harvest. Sometimes the weather (especially rain) controls the time you spend in the garden.

Other gardeners take pictures periodically to show growth. Some include soil preparation procedures. Many indicate they mulched or prepared raised beds. Many gardeners do succession plantings (instead of planting all seeds at once, seeds are planted at different times to insure a continued harvest) and record the timing and success of their efforts. Journals are also useful for recording how much and how often produce is donated to local senior centers or food banks.

Remember these are only suggestions. **The journal is your own thoughts and comments of your garden endeavors.**

Samples of Garden Journals are available to borrow from the office.



Name _____

Age _____

Division _____

Club _____



4-H Vegetable Garden Score Sheet

	<u>Possible Score</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Comments</u>
All Varieties Planted	5	_____	_____
Tool Properly Stored	5	_____	_____
Adequate Spacing Between Plants	5	_____	_____
Soil Preparation	10	_____	_____
Proper Cultivation	10	_____	_____
Crops Thinned Properly	20	_____	_____
Weeds Controlled	30	_____	_____
Insects Controlled	25	_____	_____
General Appearance and Crop Outlook	25	_____	_____
Possible Total	135	_____	

Signed by Judge _____

Date _____

Vegetable Garden Contest

1. Tools Properly Stored – points lost for tools left lying around in gardens.
2. Adequate Spacing Between Plants –seeds were planted far enough apart to allow for full growth of the plant. Space distance between rows should be about 18 inches for beets and carrots, 24 inches for beans, 40 -60 inches for cucumber hills, 30 – 36 inches for corn, etc. If rows aren't used, adequate room is left for growth of plants.
3. Soil Preparation – proper plowing, large stones removed and fertilizer applied.
4. Proper Cultivation – soil between plants should be kept loose on top to retain moisture and aerate soil.
5. Crops Thinned – adequate spacing between plants for full growth, (especially carrots, radishes and beets).
6. Weeds Controlled – few or no weeds interfering with growth.
7. Insects Controlled – plants should be free of insects and disease, no evidence of insect damage.
8. General Appearance and Crop Outlook – crops are mature for this point in growing season, adequate moisture, leaves are healthy, etc.

Score sheets with comments may be left with the member. Scores must be recorded at the office.

To earn this ribbon:	Your garden score range needs to be:
Blue	116 - 135
Red	96 - 115
White	95 and Below
Participation	If planted
Cloverbud	If age 5- 7

Name _____

Age _____

Division _____

Club _____



4-H Flower Garden Score Sheet

	<u>Possible Score</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Comments</u>
All Varieties Planted	5	_____	_____
Tools Properly Stored	5	_____	_____
Soil Preparation	10	_____	_____
Proper Cultivation	10	_____	_____
Weeds Controlled	10	_____	_____
Pests Controlled	10	_____	_____
Spacing	10	_____	_____
Arrangement / Creativity	20	_____	_____
General Appearance and Crop Outlook	20	_____	_____
Possible Total	100	_____	

Signed by Judge _____

Date _____

Green Thumb Flower Garden Contest

1. Tools Properly Stored – points lost for tools left lying around in gardens.
2. Soil Preparation – soil appropriate for flowers; fertilizer applied.
3. Proper Cultivation – soil loose on top to retain moisture.
4. Weeds Controlled – no weeds present.
5. Pests Controlled – plants free of insects and disease or evidence of damage.
6. Spacing – plants have ample room to grow.
7. Arrangement / Creativity – encourage members to be more original and artistic with their garden design. Be creative!
8. General Appearance and Crop Outlook – crops are mature for this point in growing season, adequate moisture, leaves are healthy, etc.

Score sheets with comments may be left with the member. Scores must be recorded at the office.

To earn this ribbon:	Your garden score range needs to be:
Blue	90 - 100
Red	80 - 89
White	79 and Below
Participation	If planted
Cloverbud	If age 5 - 7

Name _____

Age _____

Division _____

Club _____



4-H Container Garden Score Sheet

	<u>Possible Score</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Number of Required Plants Met CB-5 plants, Beg-6 plants, Int-7 plants, Adv-8 plants	5	_____	_____
Soil Preparation	5	_____	_____
Tool Properly Cared For	5	_____	_____
Good Location	5	_____	_____
Arrangement	10	_____	_____
Pest Control	10	_____	_____
Weed Control	10	_____	_____
Proper Cultivation	10	_____	_____
General Appearance and Outlook	20	_____	_____
Creativity	20	_____	_____
Possible Total	100	_____	_____

Signed by Judge

Date

Container Garden Contest

1. Soil Preparation – soil is appropriate for plants, the container used has proper drainage.
2. Tools Properly Cared for – points lost for tools left lying around in gardens.
3. Good Location – container is located where the plants selected will grow well (proper shade or sun as needed).
4. Arrangement – the plants used offer a nice array of color, plants are arranged based on height and size.
5. Pest Control – all plants should be free of insects and disease and have no evidence of insect damage.
6. Weed Control – no weeds must be present to receive full credit.
7. Proper Cultivation – soil loose on top to retain moisture.
8. General Appearance and Outlook – crops are mature for this point in growing season, adequate moisture, leaves are healthy, etc.
9. Creativity – containers should be original and arranged artistically; props or a theme are used.

Score sheets with comments may be left with the member. Scores must be recorded at the office.

To earn this ribbon:	Your garden score range needs to be:
Blue	90 - 100
Red	80 - 89
White	79 and Below
Participation	If planted
Cloverbud	If age 5- 7