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# *GROWING* *IN THE* *GARDEN*

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**K-3 CURRICULUM**

*growing curiosity about  
agriculture, natural resources,  
food, and people.*



**a year-round curriculum for children in K-3**

Hands-on lessons and activities are designed for use inside the classroom and/or in an outdoor classroom.

Topics fit scope and sequence standards and benchmarks in a variety of subject matter areas.

Students learn life skills such as communication, critical thinking, and learning to learn.

**a proven success**

Here's a sampling of what participating teachers have said about *Growing in the Garden*:

*“very organized and gave me a great resource to add to what I was already using”*

*“a wonderful addition to our curriculum”*

My students. . .

*“discovered that gardening and learning about gardens is fun.”*

*“learned how important agriculture is to us/our families.”*

*“learned the importance of caring for our environment.”*

*“identified healthy foods and how to prepare them to eat.”*

*“had more opportunities to practice communication and cooperation.”*

Parents whose children participated in the summer program shared these comments.

*“My child has planned a garden for us for next year. He made us promise that we would plant it.”*

*“We’ve eaten up everything the kids bring home from the garden. They (the children) are so excited.”*

**a valuable professional development experience**

Materials and resources are introduced by Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development and Horticulture specialists at group training sessions so participants not only learn the curriculum but also meet and share ideas with others in their area.

Follow-up opportunities, including grant information, are included.

Participants say that *Growing in the Garden* (is)

*“one of the most valuable classes I’ve taken.”*

*“one of the best workshops I’ve ever attended.”*

*“helps me teach age-appropriate and geographically appropriate concepts.”*

**Outdoor Classrooms  
for Young Gardeners**

**Table of Contents**

Days	Activities
1. Garden Design	1. Get to Know Each Other at the Garden Gallery 2. A Walking Garden Gallery of Name Tags 3. Garden Picture Gallery 4. The Garden Plan
2. Prepare to Plant	1. Planting a Miniature Prairie 2. Garden Tools 3. Soil Preparation 4. Garden Labels 5. Cool Season Crops
3. Time to Plant	1. Planting the Garden 2. Get Ready, Get Set, GROW! 3. Seed to Seed 4. Fast Plants
4. Cultivating Communication	1. Dragonfly Reporters 2. Creating the Garden Gazette 3. Story Ideas in the Garden
5. Gardens Need Natural Resources	1. Three Sister’s Garden 2. Natural Resources Working in Our Garden
6. Plotting Against Pests	1. Creature ID 2. WANTED . . . out of my garden! 3. To the Rescue
7. Adding Value to Garden Produce	1. Highways to Harvest 2. Value-added Agriculture Relay 3. Our Valuable Garden 4. Treasure Hunt for Value-added Agriculture
8. Pick a Better Snack	1. Food Guide Pyramid 2. Food Guide Rap 3. Billboards for Better Health 4. Food for Plants
9. Harvest – The Celebration of Cultivation	1. When to Harvest 2. How to Harvest 3. After Harvest 4. “Bee-for” Harvest
10. Garden Party	1. The Menu 2. The Entertainment 3. The Party

## Growing in the Garden K-3 Classroom Curriculum

*Thematic scope and sequence with lesson titles, concepts, life skills, subjects*

General Themes	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<p><b>Unit 1: A Garden and the Gardener</b></p> <p>Developing an awareness and appreciation of gardens and people involved in gardening</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Project Discovery</b> living and nonliving things   learning to learn   science, math, language arts</li> <li><b>Gardeners and Farmers</b> comparing gardens and farms   learning to learn   social studies, science, math, language arts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>My Special Garden</b> types of gardens   accepting differences, communication   social studies, language arts, art</li> <li><b>A Dream Garden</b> planning your own garden   decision making, communication   social studies, math, art, language arts</li> <li><b>Claude Monet</b> gardens as inspiration   learning to learn   art, science, social studies</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life in the Garden</b> animals and insects in the garden   learning to learn, communication   language arts, science, math</li> <li><b>Butterfly Garden</b> plants that attract insects and animals   learning to learn   science, language arts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What's my hobby or business?</b> reasons to grow gardens   critical thinking, communication   social studies, language arts</li> <li><b>Thomas Jefferson</b> recognize contributions   learning to learn, communication   science, social studies, language arts</li> <li><b>Garden Math</b> gardening steps   critical thinking, responsibility   math, social studies</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 2: Growing Plants in the Garden</b></p> <p>Cultivating an understanding and a sense of responsibility about agricultural practices and the interdependence of agriculture and natural resources</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Start With Seeds</b> characteristics of seeds   learning to learn   science, language arts</li> <li><b>Meet Johnny Appleseed</b> contributions   responsibility   social studies, language arts, math</li> <li><b>Water and Light</b> what seeds need to grow   learning to learn   science, language arts, music</li> <li><b>Sun, Soil, Water, and Air</b> natural resources   critical thinking   science, language arts, music, health</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Designing Plants</b> parts of a plant   critical thinking, communication   science, language arts, art, music</li> <li><b>Mud Pies and Soil Ribbons</b> different kinds of soil   learning to learn   science</li> <li><b>Be Loyal to the Soil</b> taking care of soil   responsibility   science, math</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What's up with plants?</b> directions plants grow   learning to learn   science</li> <li><b>Garden Patrol</b> managing creatures   critical thinking, communication   science, music</li> <li><b>Keeping Soil Alive</b> how to keep soil alive   responsibility   science, language arts, music</li> <li><b>George Washington Carver</b> contributions   problem solving   science, social studies, history, language arts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Traveling Seeds</b> how seeds travel   learning to learn, critical thinking   science, language arts</li> <li><b>Germination</b> how seeds germinate   learning to learn   science, language arts</li> <li><b>Photosynthesis</b> how plants produce food   critical thinking   science, language arts</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 3: Gardens Give Valuable Rewards</b></p> <p>Encouraging exploration of food, nutrition, and careers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>When is it ready to eat?</b> characteristics of ripe fruits and vegetables   critical thinking   science, art</li> <li><b>The Food Guide Pyramid</b> recognize a food guide pyramid   critical thinking   health, math</li> <li><b>Building a Food Maze</b> where food comes from   critical thinking   social studies, language arts, math</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>My Totally Tasty Plant</b> edible parts of plants   learning to learn   science, health, art</li> <li><b>Smart Shopping</b> food guide pyramid and garden foods   critical thinking   health, math, language arts</li> <li><b>Where in the World</b> where food is grown   critical thinking   social studies, science</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rocks to Ice Cream</b> plant and animal products that start in the garden   critical thinking   science, social studies, math</li> <li><b>Garden of Good Eatin'</b> food from the garden for a healthy diet   healthy lifestyle choices, critical thinking   health, math</li> <li><b>The Life of Garden Produce</b> what to do with garden produce   critical thinking   science, social studies, health, music</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Windowsill Herb Garden</b> herbs and their uses   learning to learn   science, social studies, health, language arts</li> <li><b>International Cookbook</b> ethnic foods   learning to learn, communication   social studies, language arts, health, art</li> <li><b>Nutrient Navy</b> nutrient basics   critical thinking   science, health, language arts, art</li> <li><b>Value-added Tomatoes</b> value-added foods   critical thinking   social studies, math, health</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outdoor Classroom</b></p> <p>Applying lessons from the classroom</p>	Sunflower House	Salad Garden Mulches	Grow a Butterfly Garden Create a Compost Pile	Salsa and Herb Gardens

**FREE**

*to Iowa teachers and other educators who attend training and use at least six hours of the lessons.*

*Growing in the Garden:  
K-3 Curriculum, 4H-905A*

*Growing in the Garden:  
Outdoor Classrooms for  
Young Gardeners,  
Leader's Guide, 4H-905BLDR  
Garden Journal, 4H-905A*



**SIGN-UP NOW**

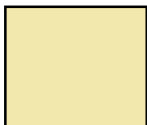
**EXPERIENCE**

**GROWING**

**GARDEN**



*Just fill out the post card below and mail it.*



Janet Anderson  
ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development  
33 Curtiss Hall  
Ames, IA 50011

- Yes, I am interested in attending a Growing in the Garden training, please send me a schedule.
- Yes, we would like to have a training at, or near, our school.
- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of this brochure, 4H-905AA, for teachers, administrators, curriculum directors, board members, Extension staff, program leaders, Master Gardeners, or other educators.
- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the general Growing in the Garden brochure, 4H-905AAA for displays, programs, or other marketing purposes.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have questions and need a faster response, please contact your Iowa State University Extension county office, e-mail [janeta@iastate.edu](mailto:janeta@iastate.edu), or call Janet Anderson at (515) 292-0754.



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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension



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***. . . and justice for all***

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