



# Hardin County 4-H

## Suggested Garden Records and Judging Criteria

Use Youth and 4-H Vegetable Garden Project Worksheet. (4H 462 WS). This can also be used for flower gardens and mixed vegetable and flower gardens. Add additional information (record sheets, pictures, etc.) as needed to tell your garden story.

**Plan (20 points)** Draw on Garden Worksheet or separate graph paper. Show size (dimensions) of garden, varieties of vegetables and flowers planned, planned row spacing, succession planting, double cropping, and companion planting. See back of sheet for definitions.)

**Implementation of plan (20 points)** Record in Table 3 (planting dates) and additional sheets as needed. Describe deviations from the plan and why changes were made, for example. Does between row and within row spacing follow recommended guidelines and your plan? Was it too dry to plant your double crop after radishes were harvested? Did you reduce the number of successive planting of green beans because you didn't need as many beans? Variations are fine, just provide explanations why.

**Soil Fertility Management (15 points)** Record in Table 1 of Garden Worksheet. Was a soil sample taken and analyzed? (Results from within the last 4 years are fine.) Record use of any commercial fertilizers: dates and rates. Record use of animal manure, green manure or cover crops, compost, and additions of other plant residues, e.g. leaves, cornstalks, straw.

### **Maintenance (35 points)**

**Pest management (15 points)** Record in Table 2 of Garden Worksheet.

- a. Insects: Record any treatments for insect pests including: dates of treatment, commercial or homemade product used (include chemical names), and any other action taken e.g. hand picked larva from leaves, covered broccoli to prevent moths from laying eggs, etc.
- b. Diseases: Record any treatments for managing diseases including: rotating crops from previous position in the garden, selecting disease resistant varieties, fungicide sprays (include chemical names).
- c. Weeds: Record treatments for weed control including cultivation/hoeing, hand weeding, mulching, commercial herbicides (include chemical names).

**Water Management (10 points)** Record in Table 2 of Garden Worksheet.

- a. Watering/irrigation if needed. Record dates.
- b. Mulching

**Thinning and harvesting (10 points)** Record in Table 3 of Garden Worksheet.

- a. Vegetables such as carrots, parsnips, beets and most flowers and herbs directly seeded should be thinned.

- b. Record harvest schedule on Table 3 of Garden Worksheet. Add additional sheets as needed.

**Expenses (and Income if any) (10 points)** Record expenses on Table 4 of the Garden Project worksheet. Income should be recorded on Table 3.

**Definitions:**

**Succession planting** – to plant the same type of plant on several dates. This helps to insure a continuous supply of this vegetable or flower. Succession planting is often used for sweet corn, green beans, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.

**Double cropping** - to grow two crops in the same space in the same season. e.g. Radishes could be followed by swiss chard, green onions could be followed by zinnias, and spinach could be followed by cilantro.

**Companion planting** – two or more vegetables planted intermixed in the same row or space. e.g. radishes with parsnips, lettuce between tomato plants, early cabbages between pepper plants.

Many helpful, free downloads exist on the Extension Store website,  
<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/>. Type “garden” in the search box



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