

Tama County 4-H Garden Rules

A member may carry either the beginning garden project or an advanced garden project depending on how many years the 4-H'er has been enrolled in the project.

Requirements:

Beginning Home Garden (those in their first year of 4-H gardening)

1. The garden may be any size the gardener wishes.
2. The beginning home garden must contain at least **five** kinds of vegetables, herbs, or flowers. No more than two may be flowers.
3. Each member should keep a 4-H Garden Project Worksheet and record keeping project form.

Advanced Home Garden (those in their second year or more of 4-H gardening)

1. The garden may be any size the gardener wishes.
2. The advanced home garden must contain at least **ten** kinds of vegetables, herbs or flowers, plus **one** new variety or kind of vegetable the member has not grown before. The new variety may be a herb or vegetable. No more than **two** may be flowers.
3. Each member should keep a 4-H Garden Project Worksheet and record keeping project form.
4. Be sure to keep your garden project sheets from previous years for your records.

Commercial Garden

1. A commercial garden is one in which the member produces one or more vegetables in commercial quantities.
2. Members should have a definite plan for using or distributing their produce.
3. The member should plant varieties or strains adapted to commercial use in the area and follow recommended agricultural practices.

Flower Garden

1. The garden may be any size the gardener wishes.
2. The garden should have a least **five** varieties of flowers, both annuals and perennials.
3. The member should use appropriate fertilization and insect control, and have a garden plan.

Other Requirements

1. The garden must be distinctly separated from the family garden. It may be in the same plot. Flowers make a good divider.
2. Members are expected to do their own work (planting, hoeing, raking, etc.)
3. Members are urged to follow the recommendations of Iowa State University.

Things to Know

1. 4-H'ers should know how the vegetables will be eaten (raw, boiled, baked, etc.).
2. 4-H'ers should know the nutritional value (vitamins and minerals) of the vegetable.

What Vegetables Should be Planted?

1. Members should plant enough of each vegetable to serve the entire family for at least one meal. Each kind of vegetable may include more than **one** variety.
2. Be on the safe side and plant a few extra plants. Remember you will want vegetables to include in your fair exhibits.

What about a Worksheet?

1. Each member should keep a 4-H project record worksheet (4H 0096B) - www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/record-keeping
2. A garden plan (4-H 462 WS) is a part of the garden project; use the enclosed graph sheet for your garden plan or the one on your vegetable garden worksheet. The plan should show the size of the garden, varieties, row placement, succession planting and space saving ideas. All members **should** complete one. The garden plan, as well as the project record worksheet, should go in the members record book, and should be kept from year to year to present to the garden tour judge.

Check out <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/horticulture>

Tips on gardening.

1. Make a garden plan.
2. Record fertilizer applications for this year and the two previous years in Table 1. Ask your parents for help with this.
3. Record insect and disease control information in Table 2. The kind of spray or dust does not mean brand name, but the materials in the spray or dust. Read the label. Example: **insecticide**-malathion, methoxychlor, rotenone **fungicides**-catan, zineb, maneb
4. Record planting, harvesting and sales records in Table 3. The last three columns are optional but helpful.
5. Record expenses in Table 4 using receipts from your purchases.
6. Record your net return in Table 5 by calculating total value from Table 3 minus total expenses from Table 4.

Tips for a Blue Ribbon Garden

1. Remember to use good plant and row spacing.
2. Include one of the following in your garden:
 - a. *Succession planting*
Several plantings of the same vegetables at different times, for example, lettuce planted at two week intervals.
 - b. *Double cropping*
Planting a vegetable that matures quickly, removing it and planting another vegetable.
 - c. *Companion planting*
Two vegetables planted in the same row or between rows of a slower maturing crop.
3. Evidence of good maintenance that includes weed control, mulching, watering, and thinning.
4. Do not use brand names of sprays or dust for disease and insect control without telling us the ingredient.
5. Use fertilizer or organic matter such as manure, green manure, or crop residue for soil improvement.