



FLORICULTURE

WELCOME

Welcome to the 4-H Floriculture Project! Please read through this Guide carefully, as it contains information and suggestions that are important for your project. **4-H leaders can obtain a Leader Project Guide and other resources from the PEI 4-H Office.** Hopefully you, as a member, will “Learn to do by Doing” through hands-on activities that will encourage learning and enjoyment. If you have any questions, contact your District 4-H Officer or your 4-H project leader.

4-H YEAR COMPLETION

You complete a project by:

- completing the project Achievement Day requirements
- completing a communication project
- completing a community project
- completing an agriculture awareness project
- taking part in Achievement Day

You must complete all of the listed aspects in order to show at Fairs and Exhibitions.



ACHIEVEMENT DAY REQUIREMENTS

(Rural Youth Fair will be the Achievement Day for Floriculture Project)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Leader’s Inspection | 10 |
| Special Project | 15 |
| Garden Plan | 15 |
| Fresh Flower Arrangement (either wild or cultivated flowers) | 30 |
| *A display box/container (maximum size 3’ x 3’) | 30 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 100 |

Each member’s project work will be evaluated on quality of flowers, items exhibited, presentation, or the way they are displayed and whether all of the requirements are met.

*Junior Members (ages 9 - 14)

Must grow and exhibit 3 - 5 types of flowers (annuals, biennials or perennials), planted in a display box/container, and one flower arrangement

*Senior Members (ages 15 - 21)

Must grow and exhibit 4 - 6 types of flowers (annual, biennials or perennials), planted in a display box/container, and one flower arrangements.

NOTE: This project is considered a “*Spring Project*”, and differs from other projects in that it is not completed at your Club Achievement Day because your flowers may not be ready until early September. You will be presented with your 4-H certificates and ribbons after the Rural Youth Fair.

EXHIBITION REQUIREMENT

Fresh Flower Arrangement**

***Except at Rural Youth Fair where the flower box/container and fresh flower arrangement will be the exhibition requirement.*

Please Note!

Members taking the Floriculture Project will display their fresh flower arrangement at their club's Achievement Day. The arrangement will be the Exhibition Requirement for all exhibitions EXCEPT the Rural Youth Fair. At the Rural Youth Fair, members must exhibit their fresh flower arrangement, a report on their special project, the garden plan and the flower box/container.

Leaders will contact the Provincial 4-H Office previous to the Rural Youth Fair with a mark for Leader's Inspection.

While all of the above are all necessary and must be marked at Rural Youth Fair in order to complete the Floriculture Project, for actual class judging at Rural Youth Fair, the flower box/container and fresh flower arrangement will be the items judged.

Special Project (15 marks)

(Achievement Day Requirement)

There are many exciting activities that can qualify as your special project. Here are some examples:

- Take a trip to a florist or garden center.
- Plant an outdoor garden as a group.
- Work in a garden in your community.
- Prepare a weed collection.
- Make a corsage or boutonniere
- Any other trip or activity that will help members to learn about growing plants!

Flower Garden Plan (15 marks)

(Achievement Day Requirement)

Prepare a plan for a flower garden. Be sure to consider sunny and shady areas, existing buildings, trees, etc, and the size, height and color of the flowers you would like to plant. Your plan should be drawn on a 1/2 sheet of Bristol board and it should be as colorful and creative as you can make it!

Leader Resource

There is a resource book available for the project leader that can be picked up at the P.E.I. 4-H Office. This book contains information on planting and caring for houseplants, garden planning, and flower crafts. It also contains different projects that can be completed as a special project such as flower arranging and planting outdoor gardens.

Exploring Plants and Soils

Plants are an important part of our ecosystem. Plants grow by using sunlight and water, plus nutrients and minerals from the soil. In turn, plants provide food for humans and animals, beautiful flower gardens and much more. This project will explore how plants grow, parts of plants and flowers, and the importance of the soil.

How Plants Grow

Plants make sugar by using energy from the sun, carbon dioxide (from the air) and water (from the ground), through a process known as photosynthesis. The sugar that is produced, $C_6H_{12}O_6$ is used as food for plant growth.



Positive Factors That Affect Plant Growth

Many factors affect how a plant will grow. The most important include:

1. Amount of sunlight
2. Proper amount of water
3. Proper temperature
4. Good soil

Negative Factors That Affect Plant Growth

There are also factors that can inhibit plant growth. These include:

1. Insects that damage plants
2. Wildlife that eats leaves or entire plants
3. Diseases
4. Poor soil condition

Plant Propagation

Plant propagation means increasing the number of new plants from plants that are already living. This is done so new generations of the species will keep on being produced. It can be done in two ways:

1. By using seeds. This is called Sexual Propagation.
2. By using parts of plants such as leaves, stems, roots, etc in order to grow new plants. This is called asexual or vegetable propagation.

Soil Types

The outer layer of the earth's surface is called soil. We are dependent on this layer for plant growth. Soil stores the nutrients, minerals and water that plants take in through their roots to enable the plants to grow.

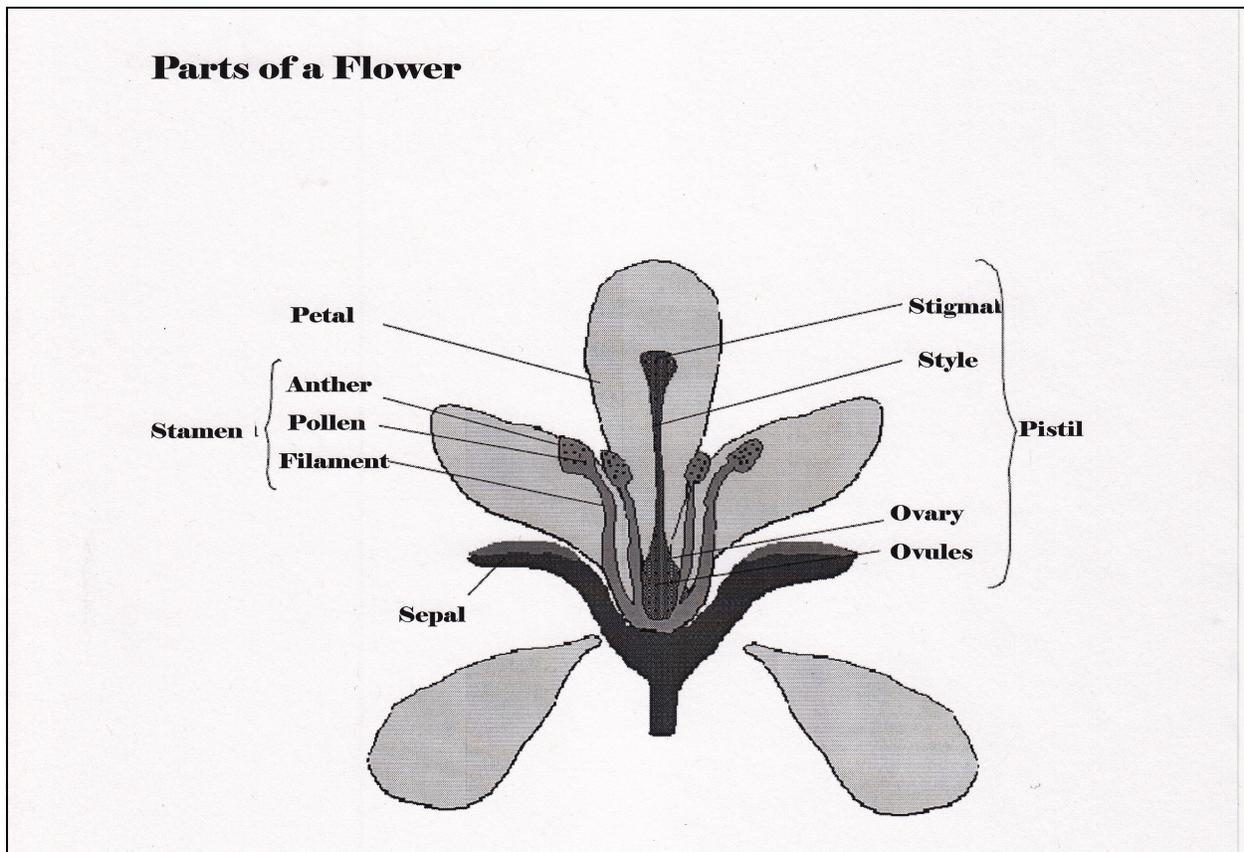
Soil is made up of three types of particles - sand, silt and clay. These parts are different because of their size. A clay particle is the smallest, followed by silt, and the largest is sand. Soil characteristics such as texture, drainage, and ability to hold nutrients vary according to the balance of sand, silt and by in the soil.

The three most common soil types are:

1. Sandy - easily tilled, excellent drainage, low in organic matter
2. Clay - very heavy, poor drainage, holds nutrients well
3. Loam - easily tilled, good drainage, an even balance of sand, silt and clay.

Soil Factors That Affect Plant Growth

1. Organic Matter
2. pH- Acidity
3. Nutrients



WEED COLLECTION

Start a weed collection from your flower garden of weeds at the seedling stage and have your leader help you identify them. The seedlings may be easily pressed between the pages of an old catalogue or phone book. Lay them out flat, carefully close the pages of the book over them so as not to disturb them and weight the book down with other heavy books. The seedlings will be dry and ready for mounting in a few weeks.

For display at Achievement Day...

Select three pressed weeds, mount and identify them. To keep your specimens from bending and breaking, mount them on a piece of stiff cardboard. You can cover them with a plastic protective page or wrap the cardboard with plastic cling wrap.

GARDEN INSPECTION (15 marks)

(Achievement Day Requirement)

Keep your garden area neat. Remember there will be a surprise inspection of your garden during July or August. This inspection by your leader is worth 15 marks towards your final project mark.

Your leader will be looking for the following during the inspection...

- Neatness, attractiveness of the plot (might include sign, border)
- Freedom from weeds and disease
- Productiveness as shown by good growth of plants, health of plants and uniformity of garden
- Garden plan and arrangement of vegetables, location of the garden and convenience

Fresh Flower Arrangement (30 marks)

(Achievement Day Requirement)

For your fresh flower arrangement you may choose to use either wild or cultivated flowers. You will be judged on:

- The quality of the arrangement (colors of flowers, how many make up the arrangement, and variety of flowers used)
- Freshness of the flowers
- How you choose to display your flowers.

DRYING FLOWERS

Fall is a good time to begin drying flowers, seedpod and ornamental grasses for later use in indoor arrangements.

Steps to follow:

1. Gather the flowers at midday when the humidity is lowest. Pick some buds as well as flowers almost at peak bloom. Avoid fully opened flowers as they do not last long when dried.
2. Strip the leaves from the flower stems, tie the stems in small bunches and hang them upside down in a dark, dry place with some circulation of air. Flowers will be dry in three weeks if conditions are right.

Good choices for drying include artemisia, baby's-breath, Bells of Ireland, Celosia, Chinese Lantern, Delphinium, Globe Amaranth, Globe Thistle, Heather, Hydrangea, Larkspur, Lunaria, Blue Salvia, Annual Statice, and Yarrow. Strawflowers should be snapped from their stems and when their buds are half open.

Ideas for Dried Flowers: Wreaths, Bouquets, Swags, and Centerpieces

Pressing Flowers

Achievement Day Requirement

You can also create a craft using pressed flowers for your Achievement Day Requirement. To press your flowers simply pick the ones you would like to use, and flatten them between two books for about a week, or until they are dry. You can then use these flat flowers to make cards, picture frames and anything else you can think of.

Please Note...

You can dry and use any flowers that you wish for your dried or pressed flower craft.

Trip to the Florist/Garden Center

Taking a trip to visit a Garden Center or Florist will give you a chance to become familiar with many different plants and flowers. It will give you an idea of what plants you would like to put in your garden plan, and you can purchase your bulbs/seeds for the indoor plant you want to grow for your project.

All flowers exhibited in the display box/container must be grown in the member's flower garden. Display box/ container arrangements cannot use wildflowers or any accessories such as candles, ribbons, rocks, driftwood, figurines, etc. Accessories and labels (cards, shells, frames, etc) are acceptable in the actual display box, but not in the arrangements.

Members may exhibit any annuals, biennials and/or perennials if they have been grown in the member's garden and the required number is five (5) blooms or three (3 stalks) of each flower.

Members may use greenery from their flower garden, vegetable garden or that occurs naturally in PEI for use in the display of and arranging flowers. Members are encouraged to use such things as flower foliage, carrot tops, moss and wild ferns.

House plants can include succulent plants.

PROJECT MEETINGS DIARY

Most projects will require at least six to eight project meetings to complete the project.



| Meeting Date | Location | Time | At this meeting, we... |
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PROJECT ENROLLMENT DIRECTORY

From time to time throughout the 4-H year, you may wish to contact your leader(s) or another project member for one reason or another. Just fill in the information below, and you will have a handy Project Member—Project Leader



| MEMBERS' NAME | E-MAIL | PHONE NUMBER |
|---------------|--------|--------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| LEADERS' NAME | E-MAIL | PHONE NUMBER |
| | | |
| | | |

Community and Agriculture Awareness Projects

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Each year you are encouraged to provide a service to your community as a 4-H member. This introduces you to the responsibilities of citizenship. You must participate in your club's plan for a community project and you should have a role to play. Describe your involvement with your club's community project this year.



Our Community Project was _____

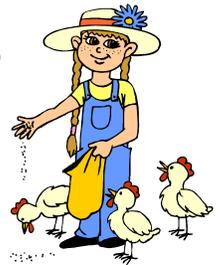
I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS PROJECT

Agriculture is one of PEI's main industries. You are expected to participate with your club to complete a project (or provide a service) which helps your club or others become aware of the importance of agriculture in our lives. As in the community project, you should actively participate.



Our Agricultural Awareness Project was _____

I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____