

VERMILLION COUNTY



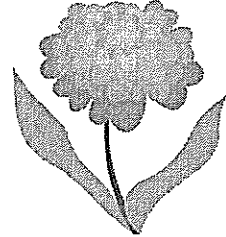
MINI 4-H FLOWERS



Mini 4-H Flowers

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING—Each year choose a different option:

1. Start from seed at least one variety or varieties of small flower(s), Ex.: marigolds, zinnias, etc. Care for the flowers by weeding, watering and checking for insects. Exhibit two cut blooms and some foliage from the flowers in a container: The total height of container and flowers should be approximately 8 inches.

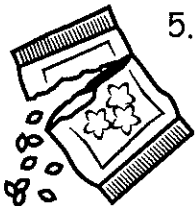


2. Pot and care for one or more small house plants. Exhibit one (1) plant you have potted and cared for in a container not exceeding five inches in diameter.

3. On a poster, 11" x 22" and displayed horizontally, explain the difference between annual and perennial flowers. Show a picture of each on the poster.



4. Using purchased flowers, make and display a small bouquet in a basket or creative container that you have not to exceed 8" in diameter and 8" in height.



5. On a packet of flower seeds is a lot of information. Exhibit a poster 11" x 22" displayed horizontally that explains 3 important points in successfully growing a seed that can be learned from the back of the packet.

Growing Plants Indoors

Man has been growing plants indoors for several hundred years. On their travels, early explorers discovered new and unusual plants. They found that these plants from different regions of the world could be transplanted from their natural environment. With proper care they would even grow indoors.

Today, we grow a wide variety of plants indoors- for many reasons. We know that house plants don't require much space. They are as easy to grow in the city as in the country, in an apartment as in a house. We like being able to enjoy house plants year round. They grow in cold winter months as well as in warm summer ones. We use house plants to brighten our lives. They add color and warmth to our homes.

How About Temperatures?



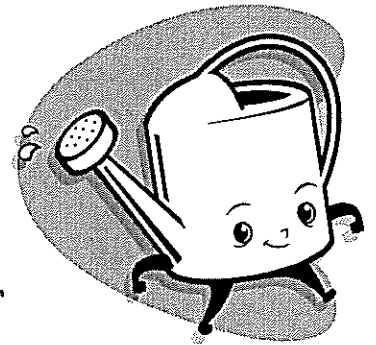
Most house plants grow well at daytime temperatures between 60 and 75 degrees F°. Temperatures above 75 degrees speed up the death of blossoms and cause plants to grow spindly. Temperatures below 55 degrees reduce plant growth.

Wilting can result, followed by yellowing and dropping of leaves. Sudden drops in temperature can also injure plants.

How About Water?

A house plant requires water. However, both under-watering and over-watering can result in poor plant growth, causing leaves to yellow and fall off. Many people over water house plants. Keeping the soil excessively wet for long periods of time cuts off oxygen to the roots. This causes the roots to rot and die.

Do not use ice cold water. Water that is near room temperature is better for watering plants. Try not to splash water on the leaves of your plants because spots can develop on the leaves of some plants.



How About Soil?

Ordinary garden soil is usually not the best for house plants. In many cases it contains too much clay. Clay interferes with the movement of water through the soil. It is better to use a soil mixture containing one part garden soil, one part peat moss and one part sand, perlite or vermiculite. If your garden soil is extremely sandy, mix equal parts of it with peat moss and omit the sand. For cactus, use a soil mixture containing one part garden soil and one part sand.

Ideas to Help You Grow Flowers



1. Wait until the soil warms up before planting your seeds outside. The soil should be above 60° (16°C).
2. Make sure you plant your flowers where they get sunlight.
3. Carefully mix the soil with a hoe or stick. Then smooth the top.
4. Follow the directions on the seed package. Use a hoe handle or stick to make a straight row in the soil.
5. Keep the soil moist (damp) until the flowers come up. This may mean watering lightly in the morning or evening if the soil becomes dry. After your flowers are up and growing, they should be watered several times a week unless it rains.
6. You may want to thin out some of the plants after they get 2 or more leaves. Thinning means leaving space between plants so they have room to grow. Always dig under the roots and take the soil around the roots with the plant. Carefully plant the ones you remove some other place.

We hope you had a lot of fun with your 4-H project! When you are a 3rd grader, be sure to enroll in the regular 4-H Flowers project in the Vermillion County 4-H program.

Flowers Record Sheet Mini 4-H

Please answer the following questions and turn in with your Flowers project.

Name _____ Grade _____

1. What date did you start your project? _____

2. What does your plant need to live? _____

3. List two things you have learned by doing this project.

a.

b.

See you at the fair!!!