

Flowers and You

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University of Missouri
Cooperative Extension Service

—PROJECT REQUIREMENTS—

1. Share enjoyment of flowers at least 12 times—at home, for friends, and at flower shows.
2. Identify at least 20 flowers, shrubs, or flowering trees.
3. Identify at least 10 wild flowers.
4. Plant and care for at least six kinds of flowers from seeds or plants, or cuttings or bulbs.
5. Carry out at least *two* group activities and *four* individual activities. (See suggestions on last page of report form.)



Live with flowers—every day.

Live With Flowers

You can live with flowers every day! Enjoy flowers indoors as well as outside. Use them for bouquets in your home. Choose flowers as gifts. Think of special occasions in terms of flowers. And do wear them.

This project offers exciting things to do with flowers. Let's explore some.

ARRANGE FLOWERS FOR A SPECIAL PLACE

Flowers can add that special touch in the decoration of your home. Have you ever checked the lovely rooms you see pictured in magazines? In almost all of them you'll see a bouquet of flowers, a plant, or both. Notice how interior decorators use flowers to help create the friendly feeling that makes a home attractive and inviting.

Don't wait for special occasions or for guests. Use flowers for your own enjoyment. From the arrangement at the entrance to the plants in the kitchen, there is a place for flowers in every room in your home. Start at the front door. How can you extend a friendly welcome to your friends? A bouquet on the hall table will do it for you. The arrangement in the picture above is a good example. Go on an inspection tour of the house. Make a list of places where you would like to use flowers.

Flower arranging is a fascinating hobby. When you become enthusiastic about it, you'll never again put flowers carelessly into a vase. You will try to arrange them in a suitable container with some sort of plan or design. One of the joys of working with flowers is seeing the number of different ways they can be arranged. The possibilities are almost endless.

In arranging flowers certain art principles are usually considered. Proper design, balance, proportion, color, and harmony help to make arrangements that are pleasing. (See 4-H Circular 175, "Fun With Flowers".)

Look over your containers carefully. Shape, size, and color are important. The first vases you choose should be off-white, green, gray, beige and brown. These colors look nice with most flowers. For the few occasions when

you do want a bright container, make use of a colorful pitcher or some other object you have about the house. Do you have things suitable for different kinds of flowers? Think of containers as a challenge to your ability to use them. Dare to be different!

You must have holders in some kinds of containers to keep your flowers in place. Chicken wire will do nicely for tall vases. A piece eight to twelve inches square of one inch mesh is a good size. Crumple or fold it and force into the vase. For an arrangement in a low container, a needle point holder is usually best. There are many holders. Collecting them can be a project in itself. And do improvise—just to see if you can. Try as many holders as possible and judge for yourself which you like best.

What flowers to use and how to use them together—that's where your originality comes in. Remember, flowers are gay and beautiful. Arranging them should be pleasant. So don't take it so seriously that you cannot enjoy doing it. Look at arrangements—real or pictures. Read to learn about design, to get suggestions, and to be inspired.

A notebook can be helpful. Collect pictures as well as articles on flower arrangements. Include several pages for "Suggestions to me." Record ideas you've heard or read about—or better still, write your own. As an example, the page labeled "Flower Arrangements" might read something like this. I have learned to:

Watch proportion. Have the tallest flowers approximately two and one-half times the height of the vase, or one and one-half times the width of the bowl for maximum flower height.

Create Balance. Place the large, heavy, dark or bright flowers near the base of the arrangement. Keep light colors and small forms at the top.

Avoid Confusion. Better too few flowers than too many in most arrangements.

Copy Nature. Try to make stems seemingly start from a central point. Where stems appear to meet, use an accent—the largest or brightest flower or a leaf.



Identify flowers . . . learn more about them.



Plant and care for flowers.

And so continue on in your notebook with more suggestions.

Another page might be "Tips on Keeping Flowers From Tipping". This would be about "frogs" and other holders. You can have fun making up topics for your notebook. Or your group may want to decide on a standard form with the same divisions and titles.

CHOOSE FLOWERS AS GIFTS

Now for some other ways to live with flowers. Is there an occasion that calls for a special celebration? Is someone having a birthday? Do you want to surprise and please someone? Use flowers!

Flowers are the perfect choice for a gift. Cut flowers, plants, or bulbs can be used. And do try adding a little bunch of flowers to the wrappings if you can deliver the package. Just one more way of being thoughtful.

When you are a house guest take or send flowers. They are known as hostess pleasers. They say, "Thank You" so nicely. Are you expecting overnight guests? Show your hospitality with a bright little bouquet in your guest room to express your welcome.

USE FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you are planning a party, you'll want flowers. Use them as decorations and as prizes for games. The guest of honor will appreciate a corsage that you have made. Try attaching tiny flowers to place cards for a festive table. Or make a flower clip to hold the napkin to the place mat. These are just a few suggestions to get you started.

Special days call for flowers. The day may suggest certain colors like red, white, and blue for the 4th of July. You may have to color some flowers if your supply is limited. Have you ever placed the stems of certain flowers in water to which ink or coloring has been added? Or have you used powdered chalk. Queen Anne's lace is beautiful in pastel colors. Experiment and have fun.

Let flowers speak for you. They can say congratula-

tions, or best wishes, or sympathy. Flowers easily express what one finds difficult to put into words. They speak a universal language.

WEAR FLOWERS

Wear flowers and encourage others to wear them. Small holders or vials will keep a blossom or two fresh for hours. You can get these at most flowershops.

Corsages can be simple or elaborate, whatever you feel the occasion requires. Have someone show you how to wire and tape flowers. Then try your hand at arranging them. *Where* you wear your flowers is a matter of personal choice. Either left or right shoulder is correct. Wear them at your neckline, waist, wrist, or in your hair. Pin a corsage to your purse or party bag. With a dark costume, add white or bright flowers for accent. When using color on color be sure the colors get along well together. Whatever your choice, remember to wear flowers with their heads up, stems down (even if the natural stem is replaced by a wire.)

For something that's a little different, make a flower wand. It has caught the fancy of teen-agers and pre-teens alike. You don't wear it, you carry it. It's a flower nosegay, trimmed with a bit of lace or ribbon, fastened to the end of a ribbon-wrapped stick about the size of a pencil. They make lovely favors or table decorations.

SHOW FLOWERS

There are countless ways to use flowers. Exhibiting them at shows or fairs is most rewarding. You share them with other people and learn a great deal at the same time. Your club could have a flower show as a community event. This would give you some experiences that will be helpful when you enter other shows. You learn how to cut flowers, and condition them so they last a long time. You learn little things like gently stroking the stems to make them bend as you wish. Invite an experienced exhibitor or designer to be guest speaker at one of your meetings. A question and answer session should follow. This would be the time to ask about "tricks of the trade."

Identify Flowers . . .

Learn More About Them

Have you ever counted the number of flowers you can identify? Turn through a magazine and write down the names of any flowers you see. Were there some you didn't know? Get your catalog and find them. This is one way of learning about flowers. Your notebook will no doubt have a section on "Flowers I Know." List all of the flowers you know. Sharon is adding Gloriosa Daisy to her list. (See page 3.) Record some information about the ones you like best. When do they bloom? How tall are they? What colors are represented by the varieties? These may be the ones you will choose to grow. Find out all you can about their special likes and dislikes. Do you have the right conditions for growing them? Are they the height you need for a particular place? Do they keep well in bouquets?

How many of the flowers pictured here do you know? The names are on the back page, but don't look until you've made your list. Try to find the actual flowers so you can see the entire plant or tree.

Remember you are to learn TWENTY NEW ONES.

One section of your notebook might be:

FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

For Fragrance

Sweet peas
Hyacinths
Grass Pinks

For Screening

Trailing Nasturtiums
Gourds
Morning Glory

Shady Places

Forget-me-nots
Lily-of-the-Valley
Clematis

Edges and Borders

Alyssum
Moss Phlox
Pansies

Hot, Dry Places

Petunias
Portulaca
Sunflowers

For Poor Soil

Poppies
Hollyhocks
Zinnias

Wild flowers can be an interesting part of your project. Many which were common several years ago have become scarce, if they are not entirely gone. This has happened because, in part at least, so many people have been careless about gathering and pulling plants out by the roots. Learn to enjoy the beauty of wild flowers where they grow. By setting a good example, you will encourage others to preserve valuable plants.

This does not mean that you cannot have wild flowers in your garden. But you will need to know which to select and how to transplant them. Or you may buy plants or seeds. There are nurseries that specialize in wild flowers and many catalogs list seeds and plants.

Plan how and where to place your wild flowers in relation to the rest of the garden. Become familiar with the conditions favorable to their growth. You can pick up pointers on things of this sort when you are on a field trip. Are they found in a sunny place? In deep shadows? Beside an old rotted log? Along a moist ravine, near a spring? On a dry rocky slope? In deep decayed leaves? And what other kinds grow nearby?

The bulletin, "Wild Flowers of Missouri," is a good guide to use for identifying wild flowers. It can be obtained from the University of Missouri. In addition, libraries have good books to help you. Perhaps you can find someone in your community who makes a hobby of wild flowers. Ask this person to share information with you.

GROW YOUR OWN FLOWERS

So you are going to grow and care for several flowers! Up to now you

may have been a helper, but this year you are going to be a real gardener.

Talk with your parents and decide what you can do. You will have to select your plot of ground or containers and decide what flowers you will grow. Your success as a flower gardener depends on how well you select and care for your plants. Remember this when you make your plans. Let's think of some things you must consider: Where to grow . . . What to grow . . . How to grow.

WHERE TO GROW FLOWERS

Flowers need good soil . . . light . . . water. Remember these things when you are choosing a spot for your flower garden. The way you expect to use your flowers will help you to make your choice. Are they for cut flowers? Or do they play a part in the over-all landscaping plan? You may need different locations for different flowers.

Most flowers need sunshine for one-half to three-fourths of the day. They like the early morning sun. So they usually do better when planted on the east or the south side of buildings, fences, or shrubs. Since trees and large shrubs take moisture and food from the soil, don't plant too near to them.

Flowers can be planted like vegetables in the garden. They may be used in a border or a corner planting. Flowers add color to the outdoor living room or play area. In most cases, flower beds are not placed in the center of the yard. They are difficult to keep and they often spoil the effect of the spacious lawn. A formal garden is the exception to this.

Plant some flowers where they can be seen from the living room if growing conditions are suitable. Or please your mother by providing a beautiful spot she can see from the kitchen window. And welcome guests by planting flowers near the front entrance or the parking area.

You may want to use flower boxes, planters, or pots for landscaping ef-

fects. Many plants respond nicely to this kind of portable gardening. By moving plants around you can create attractive groupings and pleasing color combinations. You can provide the conditions they like best, giving them the right soil, light, and water for their particular needs. If you find that something is not growing as well as it should in one place, you can move it to another where conditions are better for it.

WHAT FLOWERS TO GROW

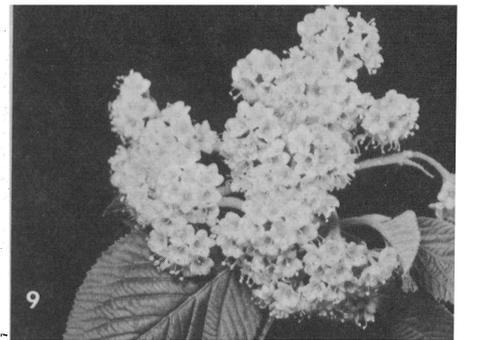
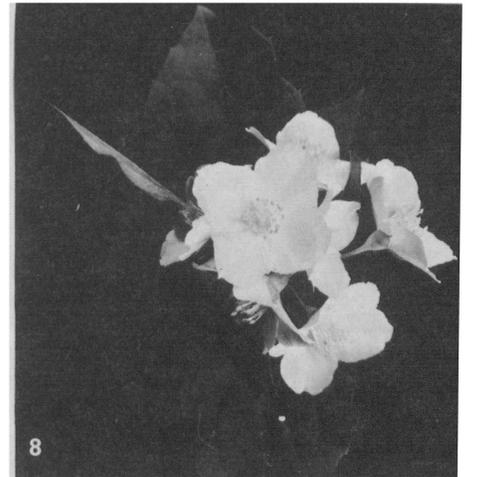
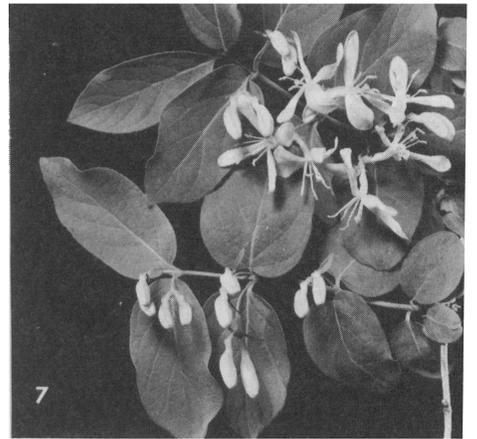
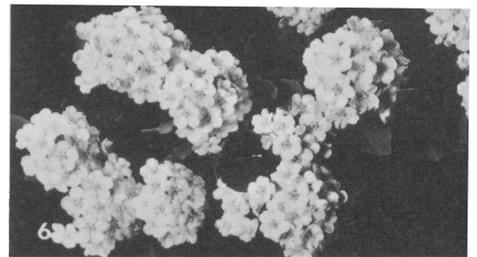
There is a kind and a variety of flower for every purpose and occasion. With dozens listed in the catalogs, it is difficult to decide which ones to grow.

Plan to have flowers from early spring to late fall whether for cut flowers or for landscaping effect. If they are to be used for cut flowers choose combinations that will be nice with colors in your home.

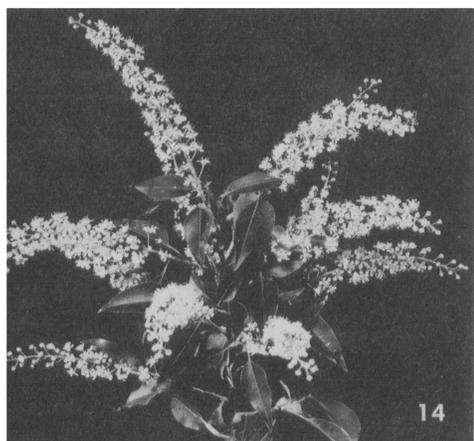
Where do you need flowers at your home? In the border? With shrubs? Make a list of places where they can be used. For instance, flowers can hide an unsightly view—this will require tall plants or vines on a fence or support. Flowers can edge a border or bed—this will take low ones. This means you'll have to know about height and spread of plants. You'll need to find out if some flowers need special growing conditions. In other words, get acquainted with the flowers so you can make a good choice. After you have decided, check with experienced gardeners if you can.

Flowers belong to special groups or have special classifications. Some come from seeds, some from plants and cuttings: Others come from bulbs, corms, or tubers. You may use any one of these sources or a combination to get the flowers you want.

Annual flowers are those grown from seed each year. They bloom and die down in one season. Among annuals, the All American Big Three are petunias, marigolds, and zinnias.



Plant and Care for Flowers



Annuals, as compared to other types of plants, have three advantages: They give the most flowers for the money; they give the quickest results; and, with few exceptions, have a longer season of bloom than perennials, shrubs, and bulbs. Their chief disadvantage is the late date at which they bloom. If annuals are used alone in a bed or border, a good part of the season will pass with little to show in the way of color.

Perennials are plants whose roots live from year to year, the tops dying to the ground each winter. Many are easy to grow and if you select them carefully you can have flowers throughout the growing season.

One disadvantage of some perennials is the way they die down after flowering, leaving gaps in the garden. To overcome this, use annuals, bulbs, and flowering plants that bloom earlier or later as needed.

Bulbs, corms, tubers, and roots of various sorts may be considered as perennials. Some of these, such as crocus, daffodils, tulips, and lily-of-the-valley may be left in the ground and require little care. Others such as dahlias, gladioli, and cannas must be dug up each fall and the bulbs stored indoors for the winter.

There are several perennials that are often referred to as "backbone plants." They are: daffodils, tulips, iris, peonies, delphinium, perennial phlox, daylilies, hardy asters, and hardy chrysanthemums. They will provide a continuous flower display from early spring through late fall.

PROPAGATION

Do you know how to start new plants from old ones? Many of the more common perennials are easily propagated by cuttings or division of plants. There is sure to be someone in your neighborhood who will be happy to give you "starts" when you show you are interested. If possible, watch this gardener make the cutting

or division. In no time, you'll be able to demonstrate how it is done.

A *cutting* is made by taking a stem portion of a growing plant and treating it so that roots are developed. The cutting can then be transplanted and will, in time, produce its own blooms. Cuttings are usually rooted in a mixture of sand and peatmoss or some commercial rooting material. Some are rooted in water. Try some chrysanthemum cuttings. You can root the tops that are pinched out of young plants. Cuttings make choice clumps in one season.

Divisions are easy to make. Use a sharp knife or spade. Consult someone who has had experience. Work with this person to gain skill. Iris is a good plant for practice.

PREPARING THE SOIL

Most flowers like a rich soil. Since flower gardens are usually small, it is easy to prepare good soil for them. Your parents can help you by suggesting what is needed. Or you may wish to make a soil test. In any case, first pick up all loose stones, sticks, and trash. In most instances you will want to mix some well rotted manure, compost, or peatmoss into the soil.

If your soil is poor, apply some commercial fertilizer. Use caution because too much can damage your plants. Depend on the advice and help of your parents or leader.

It is best to spade six inches to nine inches deep in the fall and leave the area unraked until spring. You can, however, make these preparations in late winter or early spring. Do not spade or work the soil when it is too wet. Use this simple test to tell whether the garden is ready for spading: Squeeze a handful of soil. If it crumbles, the soil is ready for spading. If it forms a mud ball, wait a few days and test again.

After you spade the ground, rake it. Continue to rake until you have a fine, level, and moist seed bed.

HOW AND WHEN TO PLANT

Seeds of annuals may be sown directly in the open ground after it has warmed up, or in boxes or pots if sown earlier. If seeds are sown in their permanent locations you need to thoroughly prepare the soil. Follow the directions on the seed packet for depth of planting as well as spacing. After the seeds are sown and lightly covered, gently tamp the soil. The spot where the seeds are sown should be marked with a stake and some sort of sign.

Other annuals are planted in rows. This method is used when a cutting garden is being grown. Sow more seed than appears necessary and then thin the plants before vigorous growth begins. Many of these carefully thinned plants can be transplanted to other areas.

It is a good idea to start some of the less hardy or long season annuals early if there is a good spot in the house. Perhaps you have a sunny windowsill where plants may be started in a flat or in flower pots or cans. Cans must have holes in them to provide drainage.

Use soil made by mixing one-fourth sand, one-fourth well rotted manure, and one-half good garden soil. Do not add chemical fertilizers to soil for sowing seeds. You may prefer to use vermiculite or some other rooting material instead of soil. It may be easier to control disease with these than with soil. More care is required, however, to assure proper nourishment.

When the young plants show their first true leaves, remove every other plant to another flat or pot. Many times fiber pots, paper cups, milk cartons, or even tin cans are placed in a second flat and the plants are transplanted to these containers. Be sure the containers have holes punched in the bottom.

When danger of frost is past and your plants are ready, transplant them to flower bed or border. Or you may choose to buy your plants. In either case transplant on a cloudy day or in the evening. Keep as much soil on the roots as possible so they will not dry out. Set the plants about the same depth as they were in the flat. Firm the soil around the plant but leave a saucer-shaped depression for water. Give at least a quart of water to each plant. Add dry soil when all the water has soaked in. A starter solution will give the plants a quicker start than water alone. Most packaged fertilizers give directions for making a starter solution.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Keep the flower garden free of weeds and cultivate it after a rain or heavy watering when the soil is again tillable. Cultivate carefully, deep enough to cut off weeds yet not injure the plant roots. Cutting off all dead flowers and leaves will help keep your plants blooming and in good condition. In dry weather, water thoroughly. Soaking to a depth of six to eight inches or more is better

than frequent sprinkling. After you remove the weeds, you can cover the soil with a layer of mulch (such as ground corn cobs, saw dust, or clippings from the lawn). A thin black plastic film can also be used. Mulches help keep the soil cool and moist. And best of all—you won't have to pull weeds—or not many.

Selecting kinds of flowers that are not easily affected by disease and insects will cut down on the need for sprays and dust. But if you do have trouble, your parents or leader will tell you what to do. Sharon is giving some roses their regular dusting. (See page 3)

Feed your plants for bigger and better blossoms. Use fertilizers according to the directions. Work them into the soil and follow with a good watering. Liquid forms of fertilizer can be used. Be careful not to let the fertilizer touch the plants since there is danger of burning.

Some flowers get tall and spindly if left to grow naturally. To make them bushy, "pinch" back the plants when they have three or four sets of leaves. Use your fingers to remove the top part of the plant. This is particularly important with chrysanthemums. Pinch them back every three to four weeks until June or July. Stake tall and weak plants.

In the fall, remove all dead plant material. Burn this to destroy insects and diseases that could bother your garden next year.

EXTRAS PAY OFF

Invite the birds to your garden. They will not only entertain you, but they will eat many insects and consume a great many weed seeds. Birds are attracted to a place where they find a steady supply of food and water. Be sure to put the food where the birds will be safe while they are enjoying it. It is amusing to watch birds eat. You can build all sorts of feeders or stations for them.

Keep your garden tools clean and sharp. Remove all soil immediately. Dirt and rust cause soil to stick to tools. This makes the tools heavier and prevents them from cutting through the soil as they should. Remove rust with sand paper or steel wool. Wipe tools with an oily cloth before storing them. Hang your tools on hooks or a rack. Keep the storage space orderly.

Plan a flower and plant exchange. This is a wonderful way to increase your own supply with little or no expense. If you have a surplus of flowers and plants, you might sell them to your friends.

Are you handy with a hammer and saw? Can you make that trellis for your climbing rose? Do you have a place for a flower box or planter? You can get ideas for these and other things from garden magazines. Lumber companies often have patterns. Copy and adapt them to your use.



Make your outdoor living room inviting.

Naturally you will be providing the flowers for the picnic table. Why not complete the picture with some linens that are truly outdoor ones? You can make them from plastic, burlap, denim or any material that can be laundered easily.

Make some colorful pillows for the yard or patio.

Choose materials that are easy to keep fresh and attractive.

Do any of these suggestions offer possibilities for things to exhibit at places where showing flowers is impossible? You and other members of your group think of some things you would like to make.

NAMES OF FLOWERS
(Pages 4-6)

FLOWERS

1. Columbine
2. Rose
3. Chrysanthemum
4. Dianthus (Pinks)
5. Begonia

SHRUBS

6. Spirea Vanhoutte
7. Bush Honeysuckle
8. Mock Orange
9. Viburnum
10. Weigela

WILD FLOWERS AND TREES

11. Blue Bells
12. Daisies
13. Black Haw
14. Wild Cherry
15. Redbud



Flowers and You

Record Blank



Name _____ Address _____

Age _____ Club _____

Years Enrolled in Home Grounds _____ Leader _____

Parents' Name _____

My Participation:

Club meetings attended during year _____. Project meetings held _____. Project meetings attended _____.

Number of demonstrations given at: project meetings _____, community club meetings _____, county meetings _____, district meetings _____, and state meetings _____.

Number of times participated in judging work in: project meetings _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Number of exhibits made in: community _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Participated In:

County Achievement Day _____, District Achievement Day _____, State Achievement Day _____, national contests _____, county fair or show _____, district fair _____, State Fair _____, Interstate Show _____, marketing days _____, county camp _____, district camp _____, State Club Week _____, National Club Congress or National 4-H Conference _____.

Number of news stories published _____. Number of radio and T.V. programs participated in _____.
Number of public speeches made _____.

Served on _____ standing committee in club.

--PROJECT REQUIREMENTS--

If you enroll in this project, your club leader will expect you to complete the following:

1. Share enjoyment of flowers at least twelve times--at home, for friends, and at flower shows.
2. Identify at least twenty flowers, shrubs, or flowering trees.
3. Identify at least ten wild flowers.
4. Plant and care for at least six kinds of flowers from seeds or plants, or cuttings or bulbs.
5. Carry out at least two group activities and four individual activities. (See suggestions on last page of report form.)

I certify that _____ has met the requirements of this
Member's Name

4-H project as outlined.

Signed _____
Project Leader

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. I shared my enjoyment of flowers:

WITH

HOW

(Examples)

My family

Made six arrangements for different areas of our home.

My hostess for a weekend party

Took her six rooted cuttings of my begonias.

(Need extra space? Attach sheet.)

2. I can identify these flowers:

3. I can identify these wild flowers:

4. I planted and cared for:

Name of flower

Date Planted

Date of first bloom

5. I gave _____ demonstrations:

Title of demonstration

For Whom Given

Where

6. I exhibited:

What

Where

Rating

(Examples)

Gladiolus

Garden Club Flower Show

Blue Ribbon

Garden Notebook

Achievement Day - State Fair

Blue Ribbon - Blue ribbon

7. I checked the activities we did as a group. (I'll tell you about them in my story.)

- A. Arranged flowers for: Church _____ hospital _____ nursing home _____ special occasion _____
other _____
- B. Toured: club member's homes _____ flower gardens nearby _____ greenhouse _____ florist shop _____
other _____
- C. Went on a field trip to study wild flowers _____.
- D. Staged a club flower show _____.
- E. Arranged: a flower or plant exchange _____ flower market _____.
- F. Other activities: _____

I checked the activities I did by myself. (I'll tell you about these in my story.)

- A. Kept a garden notebook _____.
- B. Recorded information about wild flowers I found _____.
- C. Propagated plants _____.
- D. Invited the birds to my garden by providing food and water _____.
- E. Cared for garden tools properly (This includes storage.) _____.
- F. Constructed garden accessories _____.
- G. Exhibited flowers _____ times (List given on preceding page.)
- H. Exhibited other things made in project _____ times. (List given on preceding page.)
- I. Other Activities: _____

8. Story - Attach extra sheets for a story on your project. Tell about some of the things you did . . . things you enjoyed the most . . . and things that seemed to bring the most pleasure to others.