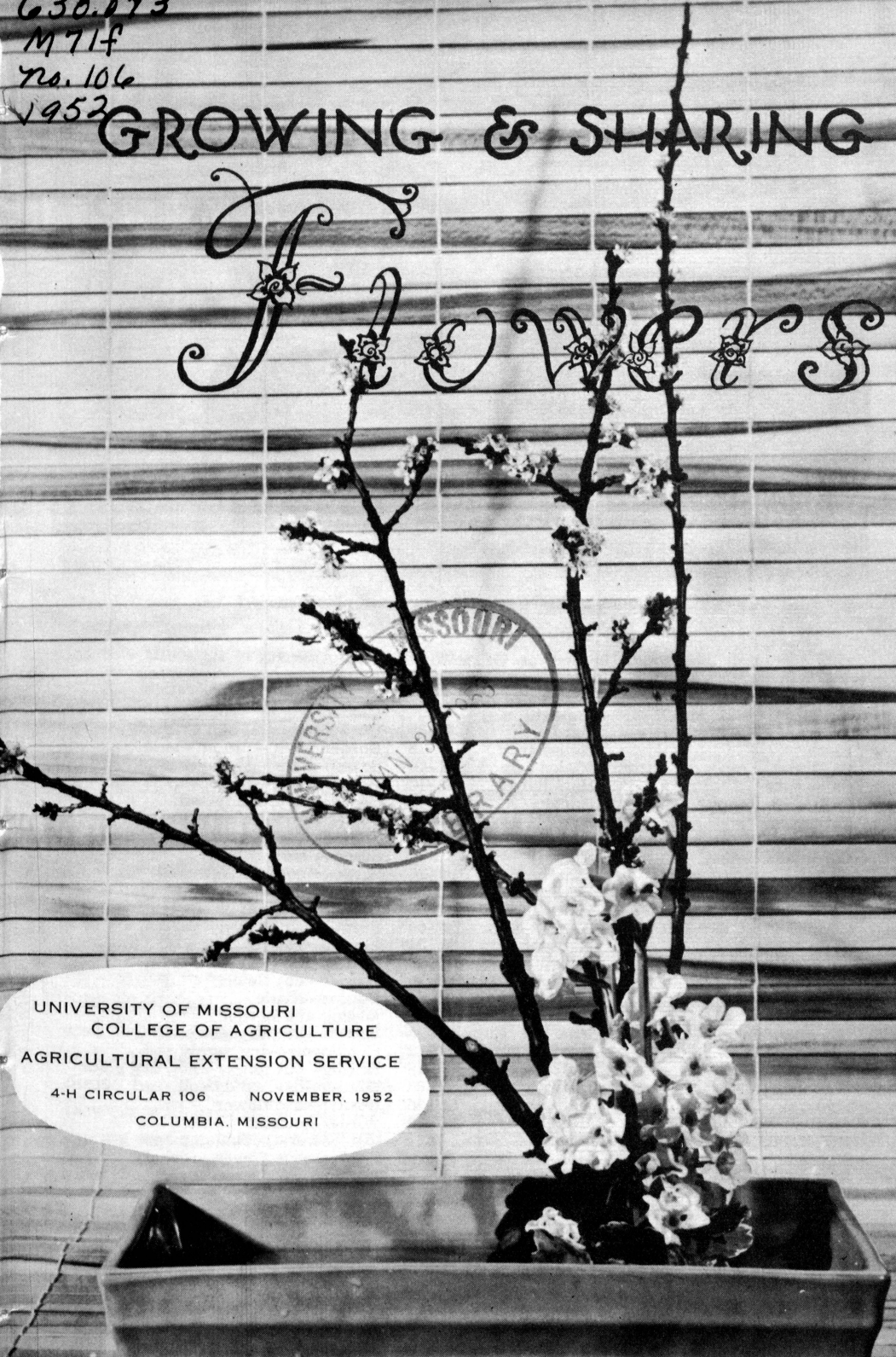


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# GROWING & SHARING

# Flowers



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
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COLUMBIA, MISSOURI



Flowers make effective background plantings.

TABLE 1—LIST OF COMMONLY GROWN ANNUALS

Name	Type	Height	Use and Location
Ageratum	Tender	6"	Used as edging—rockery
*Alyssum, Sweet	Hardy	4"-8"	Used as edging—sun or shade
*Balsam	Half-hardy	12"-18"	Border plant—sun or shade
Balloon	Vine	5'-10'	Screen planting—novelty
Calendula	Half-hardy	8"-12"	Border plant—cut flower
California Poppy	Hardy	12"	Border—dry, sandy soil
Calliopsis	Hardy	18"	Cut flower—sun or shade
Candytuft	Hardy	6"-12"	Edging—rockery
Cardinal Climber	Vine	15'	Screen—sun
Castor Bean	Half-hardy	4'-8'	Screen—good foliage
Chinese Forget-Me-Not	Hardy	15"-30"	Border—shade
Corn Flower	Hardy	24"-30"	Cut flower—sun or shade
Cosmos	Hardy	24"-60"	Border—cut flower
Four-O'Clock	Hardy	24"	Border—sun
Gaillardia	Hardy	12"-30"	Border—hot, dry place
Larkspur	Hardy	24"-36"	Border—cut flower
Lupine	Half-hardy	24"-36"	Border—shade
Marigold	Half-hardy	6"-36"	Edging and border
Morning Glory	Vine	10'-15'	Screen—hot, dry place
*Nasturtium	Tender	8"-12"	Cut flower—dry, sandy soil
*Petunia	Hardy	12"-18"	Edging—cut flower—hot, dry place
Portulaca	Hardy	4"-6"	Edging—dry, sandy soil
Scabiosa	Half-hardy	12"-36"	Border—cut flower
Strawflower	Half-hardy	24"-36"	Winter bouquet
*Sweet Pea	Hardy	3'	Cut flower—cool, damp spot
Verbena	Half-hardy	8"-12"	Border—cut flower—rockery
Zinnias	Half-hardy	12"-36"	Border—cut flower—dry, sandy soil

\*Fragrant

#### Cover Page

Gay as springtime is this line arrangement using blooming wild plum branches with narcissus. The container is of pottery in soft shades of green, brown and cream.

# Growing and Sharing Flowers

ALICE M. ALEXANDER

Everyone appreciates and enjoys an attractive yard. It is a source of pride to those who help make it beautiful and a pleasure to all who see it.

Varieties of flowers, carefully selected, planted and cared for, are one of the best and simplest ways of beautifying the home and the yard. Sharing flowers with the family and friends through arrangements for the home, church, school, sick room, or for special occasions gives pleasure well worth the effort. An arrangement to wear is another way of using and sharing flowers that brings happiness to the maker and the one wearing the corsage.

Becoming familiar with various kinds of flowers, learning how to plant and care for them develops co-operation and patience as well as a feeling for beauty.

If wisely selected for color, height, and foliage, and grown in suitable, well cultivated soil, annuals, perennials, hardy bulbs, roses, and wild flowers will provide a wealth of color during spring, summer and fall.

Flowers may be planted in a border, used for filling in spots in front of shrubbery, grouped for screen plantings, or put in rows in the vegetable garden to supply flowers for cutting.

## CLASSIFICATION OF FLOWERS

### Annuals

Annual flowers are those grown from seeds each year. They bloom and die down in one season. With just a few annuals you may have quite a varied and colorful flower display. And an interesting garden may be made with only one kind of flower, for example, marigolds. You can have them in a number of varieties from the low-growing little Dwarf Double French, some of them scarcely  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot high, to towering  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet "Africans" with blossoms almost as large as greenhouse mums.

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 much longer season of bloom than perennials, shrubs and bulbs.

**Hardy Annuals**—Seed of many annuals lie dormant outdoors during winter, germinating in the spring. This class usually self-sow; but with this method of seeding, the plants in time produce blossoms with less desirable colors, size or doubleness. This is particularly true of the petunia and larkspur.

Other annuals in this class are those

which, for best results, require an early spring start and yet are difficult to transplant. The seeds of these are hardy enough to remain in the ground during winter ready for germination in the spring; or they may be sown in early spring. Examples are sweet peas, larkspur and annual poppies.

**Half-Hardy Annuals**—Seeds of this group require a long time to germinate. In this class are verbenas, China asters and many others. In February or March, sow the seeds in a cold frame or in a box in the house, then transplant to the garden after danger of frost is past.

**Tender Annuals**—Another group of annuals includes those with tender foliage that cannot stand freezing or frost. The seeds of tender annuals may be sown outdoors when the soil is workable. *Ageratum* and *nasturtium* are examples of this class.

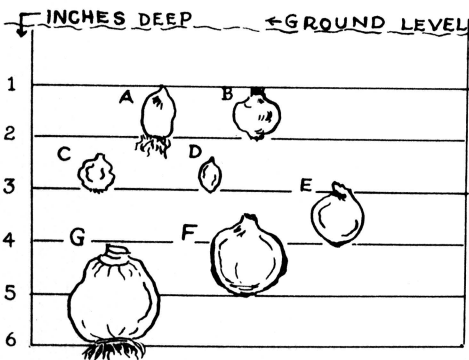
**Perennials**

Perennials are plants whose roots live from year to year, the tops dying to the ground each winter. They are easily cultivated and careful selection of kinds will give all types of flowers throughout the year. The chrysanthemum, peony, iris, columbine, lily-of-the-valley and shasta daisy are well known perennials.

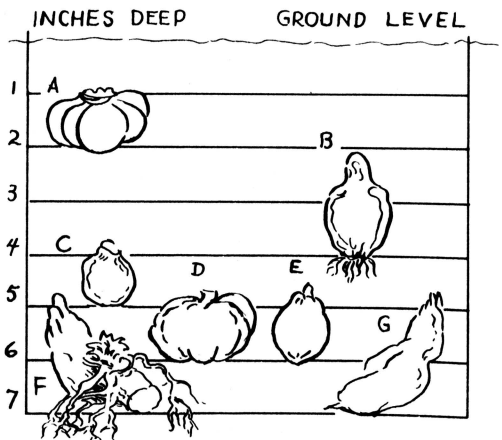
Dividing the roots or crowns is a common way of propagating perennial plants. Many perennials, but not all, are successfully grown from seeds. For bloom the following year, sow the seeds in spring or soon after midsummer. Such biennials as sweet william and hollyhock, require two growing seasons to produce flowers and so are seeded as perennials.

**Bulbs**

Most hardy bulbs are perennials but because of their specialized manner of



Plant spring-flowering bulbs in the fall. A. Grape Hyacinth. B. Crocus. C. Scilla. D. Snowdrop. E. Tulip. F. Hyacinth. G. Daffodil.



Plant summer-flowering bulbs in the spring. A. Tuberous begonia. B. Tuberose. C. Tritonia. D. Gladiolus. E. Ismene. F. Cannas. G. Dahlias.

Depth of planting, of course, will vary with the kind and size of bulbs. Also, the type of soil will make some difference in planting depth. In general, a bulb should be planted to a depth about three times its diameter.

TABLE 2—PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Kind (Height*)	Month of Bloom	Use and Location
Crocus, (L)	March	Yard and shrub borders
Violet, (L)	April	Edging—partial shade
Bleedingheart, (M)	April	Border—sun or shade
Columbine, (M)	April	Border—partial shade
Moss Phlox, (L)	April	Edging—sun
Tulips, (L and M)	April	Border—sun
Narcissus, (L)	April	Border—cut flower—sun
Sweet William, (L)	April	Border—sun
Garden Pink, (L)	May	Cut flower—sun
Gladiolus, (M)	May	Cut flower—sun
Iris, (M)	May	Border—sun
Lily-of-the-Valley, (L)	May	Edging—shade
Painted Daisy, (M)	May	Cut flower—sun
Peony, (M)	May	Border—sun
Oriental Poppy, (M)	May	Border—sun
Babysbreath, (M)	June	Border—sun
Coreopsis, (M)	June	Cut flower—sun
Daylily, (M)	June	Border—shade
Foxglove, (M)	June	Border—shade
Gaillardia, (M)	June	Cut flower—sun
Hardy Phlox, (M)	June	Border—sun
Hollyhock, (T)	June	Background—sun
Beebalm, (M)	July	Border—shade
Canterbury Bell, (T)	July	Border—shade
Cornflower, (M)	July	Border—sun
Rosemallow, (T)	August	Background—sun
Tiger Lily, (T)	August	Border—sun
Chrysanthemum, (M)	September-October	Border—cut flower—sun
Golden Glow, (T)	September-October	Border—sun
New England Aster, (T)	September-October	Border—sun

\*—Height, L—Low, M—Medium, T—Tall

storing strength for another year, are classified separately.

The first flowers to bloom in the spring are some of the bulbous plants. Among them are the crocus, daffodils jonquils, narcissus\*, tulips, and hyacinths. Gladioli or "glads", as they are commonly called are tender "bulbs" and are grown from corms planted at two-week intervals from April 1 to July 1 to provide a succession of blooms until frost. Dahlias, certain begonias, cannas, and others which renew themselves each season from food storage roots are likewise tender and must be dug and stored each winter.

## Roses

The rose is one of the most popular of all flowers. Therefore, find a place for at least one bush. Roses are classified as:

**Hybrid Tea**—This is the most widely planted type. It is an ever-blooming or monthly rose noted for form and range of color. Average height is 2 to 3 feet. Roses need winter protection in Missouri. Example: Radiance, Peace, Crimson Glory.

**Hybrid Perpetual**—This vigorous grower displays a great crop of roses in June and a few at intervals through the summer. Height is 2 to 6 feet. Ex-

\*Narcissus and daffodil are synonymous. (Narcissus is the Latin name, daffodil the English.) Jonquil refers to only one class of narcissus.

amples: American Beauty, Frau Karl Drushki.

**Polyanthas**—Roses are produced in large clusters throughout the summer. Height is 2 feet. Example: Salmon Ideal, Pinocheio, Gloria Mundi.

**Floribundas**—These large flowered polyanthas are excellent for mass color. Some have high-centered blooms and rival hybrid teas. Height is 2 feet. Example: Fashion, Poulsens.

**Ramblers**—Long canes bear large clusters of small single or double roses. These roses are useful for covering walls, banks and fences. But they should be seldom used since they are easily affected by disease and insects. Example: Crimson Rambler, Hiawatha.

**Climbers**—Stiff canes from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch thick produce large flowers in clusters or singly. Many reach 10 to 15 feet. Example: Paul's Scarlet, Dr. Van Fleet, New Dawn.

The three factors essential for growing good roses are sunlight, air and good drainage. The type of soil is not so important. Any soil with proper treatment, from heavy clay to very sandy loam will produce good roses. Choose a spot with sun for at least half the day and away from competing roots of trees and shrubs. Roses enjoy growing in beds by themselves and are less successful when combined with the flowers of perennial border.

Pest control is the biggest single problem in rose culture. Regular, frequent dusting or spraying is the only means of producing plants free from insect and disease damage. Prune roses in the spring and again in the summer. In the spring, remove

branches which were winter-killed. Weak branches may also be removed, but severe cutting back is not recommended. Summer pruning is done by the removal of flowers. The least amount removed when cutting flowers, the greater will be the growth.

Prune ramblers, which grow so rapidly, right after flowering by taking out all of the oldest flowering canes and leaving 6 to 8 of the more vigorous young canes to bloom the next year. With large-flowered climbers, only the oldest canes are removed.

### Wild Flowers

Wild flowers of the woods and prairie contribute greatly to the beauty of our state. Many which were rather common years ago have become scarce, if not entirely gone. This has been brought about, in part at least, by reckless gathering of large masses of flowers and by tearing the plants out by the roots. It is hoped that every club member will learn to enjoy the beauty of the wild flowers without pulling and needlessly destroying them and will encourage others in their preservation.

Libraries have good books to help identify wild flowers. In many communities it is possible to find someone who pursues this study as a hobby and can be induced to share his or her knowledge.

Since there are many different wild flowers, some can be transplanted to a garden. But you'll need to know which to select, when to transplant, how and where to place them in relation to the rest of the garden, and the conditions favorable to their growth.

In selecting flowers to transplant,

avoid those which require an acid soil, such as pink lady slipper or birds foot violet. Usually flowers should not be transplanted while in bloom and every effort should be made to disturb the roots as little as possible. Removing a good sized chunk of the original soil is good plant insurance. By considering the flower's natural home you may duplicate this in the garden and thus assure the best conditions for growth.

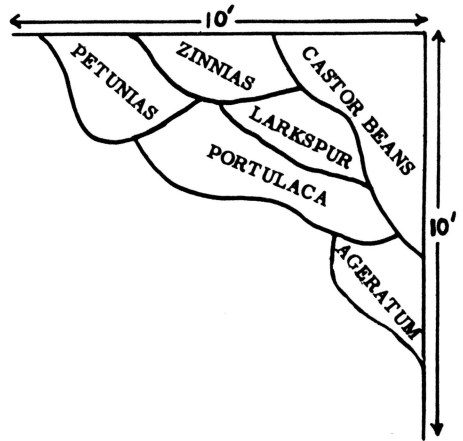
### PURPOSE AND LOCATION OF FLOWERS

There is a kind and variety of flower for every purpose and location whether for a flower garden, a border or foundation planting or for cutting. With dozens listed in most seed catalogs, it is difficult for the beginner to decide which ones to grow. Too often his list will be made up from those shown in the biggest illustrations and the brightest colors without regard to the growth habits of the plant, whether it is tall or low, bushy or trailing, best suited to dry soil and full sun, or moist soil and shade.

Selecting flowers to fit a particular location and growing conditions is good planning. By consulting Tables 1 and 2, a combination of flowers may be chosen to assure continuous bloom from spring until fall and at the same time meet the requirements as to purpose and location.

#### Flower Gardens

Flower gardens may be formal or informal depending upon the type most suited to the house and yard. In a formal garden, beds or borders of flowers make definite patterns. Also,



Suggestions for corner planting of annuals.

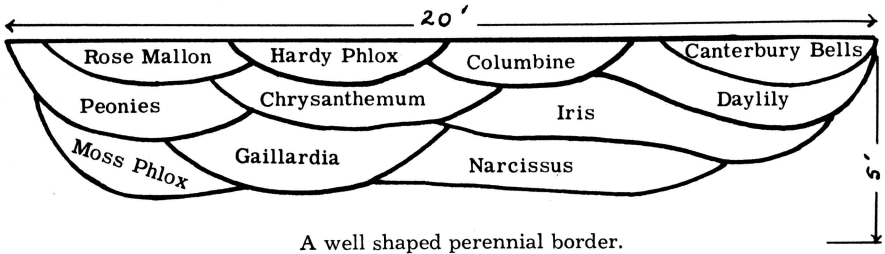
it is necessary to have plantings balanced or duplicated on both sides of an imaginary center of the garden area.

The informal garden is designed as an irregular border made up of various kinds of flowers surrounding an open lawn and backed-up by a shrub-border or fence boundary.

The best location for the flower garden is near the living room, the sun porch, or outdoor terrace where the picture of the garden can be seen. Nothing will help more in making kitchen duties pleasant than to have a beautiful view from that window also.

A garden longer than wide (approximately one and one-half times the width) is of most pleasing shape, although a square or a long narrow area can be interesting.

Regardless of the kind of flower garden, it is necessary to consider efficiency in care and maintenance as well as initial cost.



### Borders

Perennials may be planted alone or combined with annuals or bulbs in borders, among or in front of shrubbery in the general garden, along drives or walks and around the foundation, or in special places such as rock or wall gardens.

For ease of planting and cultivating, make the border not more than 5 feet wide and arrange so it can be worked from both sides. If it can be reached from only one side, 3 feet is the better width.

Taller varieties of flowers are best placed at the back of the planting, those of medium height next, and the low ones in front. But to add interest by varying the arrangement, some plants of medium height should be brought to the front of the border.

The border that is viewed from each side will have tall plants in the center with medium and low on either side if space will permit. In a narrow border, only medium and low plants with an

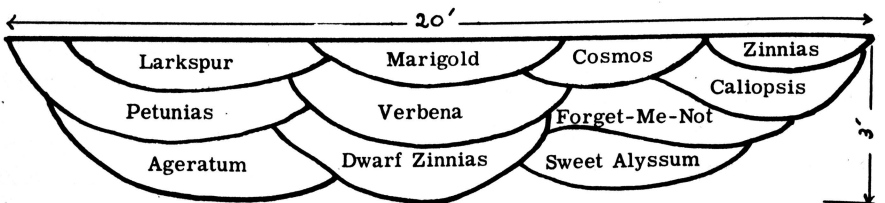
occasional tall one for emphasis will suffice.

Consider the foliage as well as the flower in selecting plants for a border, since some plants have prettier leaves than others and they must sometimes form the background for other flowers. The plantain lily is a good example of attractive foliage.

It is possible to have an interesting border made entirely of annuals. However, most gardeners prefer combinations since they make for more permanent plantings.

### Flowers Among Shrubby

When used among shrubbery, place flowers here and there in clumps, never in a continuous or straight row. Low growing plants may be used in front and larger ones placed farther back extending into the shrubbery. Select flowers according to the amount of shade the plants will have, the amount of water required and their suitability to the surroundings.





### Rock Gardens

A rock garden is a special form of garden, where perennials, such as dwarf iris, moss pink, sedum and low-growing native plants are grown among rocks. Natural locations, as rock ledges, with good soil between the rocks, are most desirable for this type garden. Rock gardens are informal and should tie in with the rest of the yard. Rocks piled in an open space in the yard do not make a rock garden. For the best growth of rock plants, the ground should slope somewhat to the south. It should not be fully shaded but rather in the sun if possible. However, there should be some background of trees and perhaps evergreens at the top of the slope for appearance and for winter protection. This will also provide a place for native, shade-loving wild flowers.

### Wall Gardens

When used for growing plants, a rock fence or rock retaining wall is built with good soil instead of mortar and is not free-standing but backed up with soil on one side. Many of the small rock plants and ferns and adequate for planting in these pockets and on top of such a wall.

### Wild Flower Gardens

It is interesting to plan for a section of the grounds to be devoted entirely to wild flowers if the plot looks like the natural home of the flowers. Otherwise, introduce native planting along with others in borders.

### SOIL REQUIREMENTS

The first requirement of a garden is good, well drained soil. The best soil

is a rich loam, thoroughly mixed with well rotted manure. Clayey soils usually contains more plant food than sandy soils, and hold moisture longer, but remain cold later in the spring. Clayey soil may be improved by deep spading in the fall, turning under well-rotted manure and leaving the surface rough throughout the winter. Well drained sandy soils, warm up early in the spring and can be spaded easily, but they will not hold moisture well and usually lack the required amount of plant food. Sandy soils are more productive and retain moisture better if a generous amount of leaf mold or well rotted manure is added.

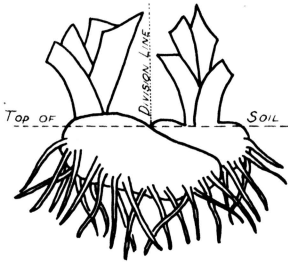
A good preparation involves spading or plowing to a depth of 8 to 12 inches, enriching with manure and commercial fertilizer and by adding top soil if necessary.

### PLANTING AND PROPAGATING

Annuals may be sown directly in the open ground after it has warmed up, or in boxes or cold frames if sown earlier. If seeds are sown in their permanent location you need to thin them before vigorous growth begins. Transplanted seedlings should be watered well and shaded for a few days.

Seed of perennials may be sown in a cold frame in May or August where seedlings may be protected until they are large enough to be transplanted. Many of the more common perennials are more easily propagated by division of old plants or cuttings.

For example, *iris* should be divided and reset about every three or four years. June is the best time to do this.



Dividing an iris.

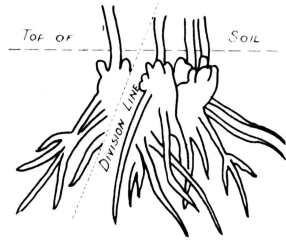
The fleshy roots of *peonies* may be separated and cut in pieces if a good crown bud is left with each piece of root. Set roots with about 2 inches of soil over the top. This is usually done in late summer or early fall although it can be done in the spring.

The nicest *chrysanthemums* come from division at the old clump or cuttings taken from the old plant early in the spring.

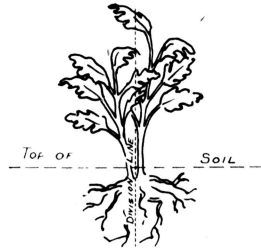
*Oriental poppy* roots may be set in early fall like the early spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths and daffodils.

*Daylilies* constitute a large and varied plant family with members that bloom with the later tulips, and others that finish up with the chrysanthemums. Spring is usually preferred for planting time, but old and crowded plants of the early and midseason kind can be lifted and divided immediately after flowering. Divisions, new or old, should be reset at the level they formerly grew.

*Phlox* can be divided by making both stem and root cuttings. Very rapid increase comes when old clumps are dug in the fall. The following spring, new plants that come from root tips left behind when the clump



Transplanting a peony.



Dividing a chrysanthemum.

was dug will show up in an almost perfect ring.

### CARE DURING GROWTH

Keep the flower garden free of weeds and cultivate after a rain or heavy watering. Cultivation should be shallow, deep enough to cut off weeds yet not injure the plant roots. Cutting off all dead flowers and leaves will help keep the plant blooming and in good condition. In dry weather water thoroughly. Soaking to a depth of 6 to 8 inches is better than frequent sprinkling. Humus in the soil will retain the moisture. Feeding at three week intervals from June to August with a fertilizer containing nitrogen will pay dividends. A summer mulch consisting of 1 or 2 inches of dry grass clippings, leaf mold, rotten manure, straw or peat moss will

TABLE 3—INSERT CONTROL FOR FLOWERS\*

Insect	Control
1. Aphids	1. 1-1½ lindane dust or lindane spray made by mixing 1 teaspoonful 25% lindane emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.
2. Cutworms	2. Protect plants with collars, or dust with 10% Toxaphene dust.
3. Grasshoppers	3. 10% Toxaphene dust or Aldrin spray using 2 tablespoons 25% Aldrin emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.
4. Lace bugs	4. 3-5% methoxychlor dust, or spray with 3 tablespoons of 25% methoxychlor emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.
5. Mealy bugs	5. Spray with nicotine sulfate, using 1 teaspoonful 40% nicotine sulfate and 1 ounce soap in 1 gallon water.
6. Red Spiders	6. Use aramite following directions on label of container.
7. Rose slugs	7. 3-5% methoxychlor dust, or spray with 2 tablespoons of 25% methoxychlor emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.
8. Stalk borers	8. No good insecticide control. Clearing up weeds and flower refuse each fall will help.
9. Thrips	9. Spray with 1 tablespoonful 25% DDT emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.
10. White flies	10. 3-5% methoxychlor dust, or spray with 2 tablespoons of 25% methoxychlor emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon water.

\*Prepared by Stirling Kyd, Extension Entomologist

prevent evaporation and add organic matter. Also, it will reduce soil temperature.

Selecting kinds of flowers that are not easily affected by disease and insects will cut down on the need for sprays and dusts. In some instances, however, it will be necessary to use preparations for the control of pests. Proper application includes careful attention to directions, timely application, good sprayers or dusters, and thorough coverage of pests.

Insecticides and fungicides are equally effective in either dust or spray form if the correct materials are properly applied. A good dusting material for both insects and disease may be inexpensively prepared at home by mixing thoroughly 9 parts of dusting sulfur (not flower of sulfur), 1 part arsenate of lead, and 1 part snuff or 10 per cent nicotine dust. Apply with dusting gun.

Winter care of the perennial border requires cleaning away of refuse and applying a mulch to prevent heaving

of the plant by freezing. Remove the mulch in early spring and apply some rotted manure and bone meal. This can be stirred into the top three or four inches of soil.

### FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

The ideal arrangement will show the beauty of the flowers and foliage either in a mass or in a simple line arrangement. It will be suited to the room and place it occupies. The arrangement will have distinction because of an unusual choice of materials, colors, or design. It will be carefully balanced, well proportioned and without large open spaces. Colors will be well chosen with one color predominant. Flowers and containers will blend in color, design and texture.

### Selecting Materials

One purpose of growing flowers is to provide a supply for cutting. Careful selection of plantings will insure a succession of materials to use throughout the year. Besides providing for a



Side Triangle



Crescent



Hogarth Curve



Circle



Perpendicular



Triangle

You can arrange flowers in many different ways.

succession of twigs, blossoms, foliage, berries, and seed pods, the gardener should plan to have spike, round, and filler plant materials to use.

Selecting full blown, as well as half blown blossoms, and buds with various stem lengths will usually provide spike, button and background flowers.

Cutting flowers early in the morning or late in the afternoon and placing them in cool water for several hours before arranging them in containers will give best results. Cuts made should be slanting, using a

sharp knife or pruning shears which do not crush the stem as do scissors. Split or pound an inch or so of the stems of hard stemmed flowers, such as chrysanthemums or lilacs to allow an intake of water. Remove excess foliage to prevent decaying of leaves which soon spoils an arrangement.

#### Background for Arrangement

A room or a house of a definite period or type calls for an arrangement suitable for that particular kind. For example, a mass arrangement is



Choose an appropriate container for your flower arrangement.

perhaps more desirable for the colonial home and a line arrangement for the more modern one. Rough-textured flowers, such as zinnias, marigold, and field daisies, are appropriate with homespuns. Lilies and roses are successfully used with smooth linen damask.

Tall arrangements fit best into tall panels of wall space. Low arrangements look best on a horizontal oblong space. A tall vase of flowers is often used in a hall while a low, flat container decorates a mantel.

Not only are the type and shape of the background important but also its size. A miniature arrangement on the dining room table will be lost; however, it will be quite at home and attractive on a small table or a breakfast tray.

In the same manner, large baskets

of flowers are best for a church or an auditorium rather than in a home.

A grouping that will be seen from every angle or be reflected in a mirror must look well from all sides. If it is to be placed against a wall, attention needs to be centered only on the sides and front. The level from which the arrangement will be seen is another factor to consider.

### Containers

A good container and flower holder makes arranging a bouquet easier. A very inexpensive bowl or vase can be beautiful and useful.

There should be something in common between the flowers and containers such as color, form and texture.

Colors found most suitable in containers are dull green, grey, cream or

soft yellow, gray-blue, brown, white and black. The grays and browns of old jugs and bean pots, the copper of kettles and old pewter, all blend well in color and texture with shrubs, branches and rough-textured flowers. Blue-green bubble glass is appropriate for French marigolds. Clear glass, silver, fine china and smooth pottery are suitable for roses and delphiniums. Delicate containers are needed for dainty, feathery flowers.

Highly ornamental containers should be avoided since the flower is the decoration. The size and shape will be chosen for the particular flowers and the place where the arrangement is used. Containers should be deep enough to hold water to keep the flowers from wilting.

Flower holders of glass, wire, or metal may be bought. Cut twigs or branches of cedar as well as crushed chicken wire mesh are satisfactory holders which are usually available at home.

A bit of modeling clay or melted paraffin attached to the bottom of a holder which is then pressed firmly against the bottom of the container will help keep the arrangement from slipping. This can be tested by holding the container upside down before placing the flower. **Precaution:** Both container and clay must be absolutely dry.

If accessories are used, they should be of such type and so placed to not lead the eye away from the flowers but to center the attention on them. The value of an accessory to a grouping can be determined by taking it completely out of the picture. If its

loss is not noticed, it should not be used.

A base of pottery, wood, or metal is sometimes needed to give added weight to the base of the container or to protect a table top. It should be considered a part of the container.

### Types of Arrangement

A *mass grouping* is a satisfactory type to arrange for the home, church or other public place. Flowers suitable for mass arrangements include asters, peonies, lilacs, zinnias, chrysanthemums and many others. Flowers and foliage are placed together similar to the way they grow in the garden. One kind of flower with its buds, and its own leaves or several harmonious kinds of flowers may be used.

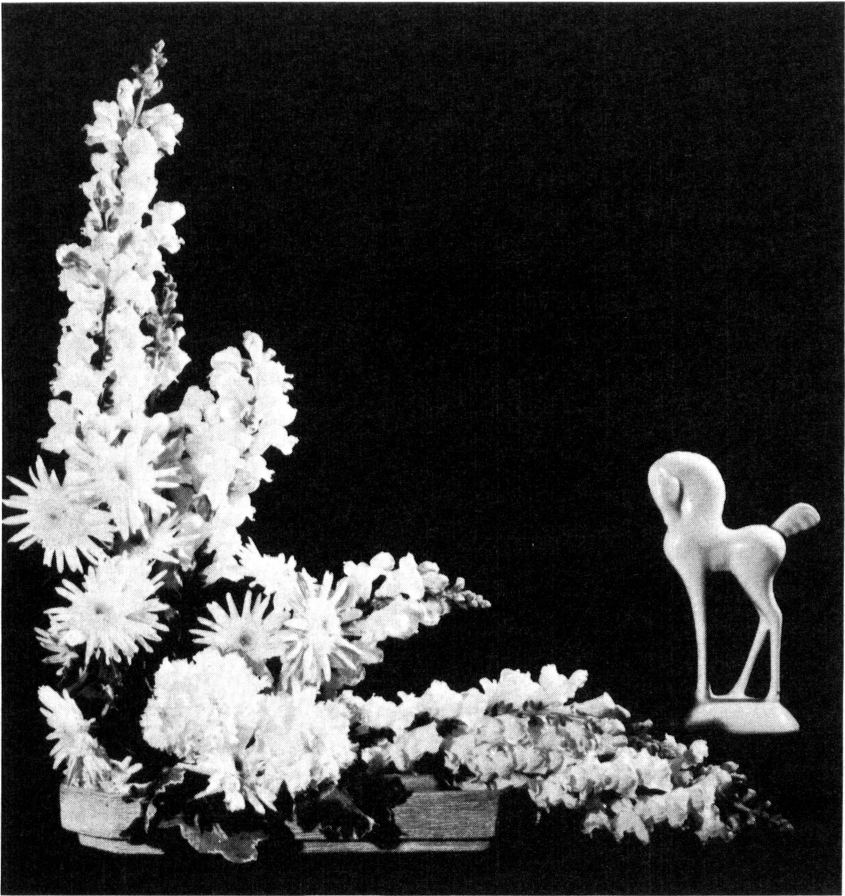
For *line arrangements*, a few branches of flowers, or even one stem or twig, may be arranged to emphasize the beauty of their forms. Such an arrangement depends for the most part upon the shape of the flowers and stems for its interest. Apple blossoms, lilies and irises are particularly good for line arrangements.

A *geometric arrangement* is definitely arranged in the form of a triangle, a circle, a side triangle, a crescent, Hogarth line (an S or a reverse S), and other forms.

*Floating arrangements* are those where a bit of foliage and heads of flowers are attractively placed in a very flat container. These are especially good for dining room tables.

### Basic Principles of Flower Arrangement

*Design* is the basic pattern of the arrangement. It consists of a planned



A side triangle arrangement using snapdragons, chrysanthemums and marigolds.

relationship among flowers, foliage and container.

*Scale* is achieved by selecting materials related in size to each other and to their container. The height of the container and the height of the flowers above it should not be the same. A suggested measurement is that the flowers should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the height of the vase or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the width of a flat container.

*Balance* means that the arrangement is not top heavy, nor does it have

more height on one side than on the other. The greatest mass of material and color is kept near the center and at the base of the arrangement.

*Color* is important in flower arrangement. Different tints and shades of the same color go well together. For example, a bouquet made of light, medium and deep pink tulips is a harmonious combination. Contrasting or complementary colors, such as yellow-orange pansies with blue-purple grape hyacinths may be used.

An arrangement of related or analogous colors is a good combination. It will have a common color in its makeup. The yellow-orange petals and red-orange center of the calliopsis with orange butterfly weed suggests a copper bowl as a container. Orange is the common color.

A color chart or wheel is an aid in making up good color combinations.

*Focus* is the center of interest in an arrangement.

*Harmony* is created by assembling the materials so that the flowers, container, accessories and setting are perfectly blended.

### FLOWERS TO WEAR

Flowers from the garden and a few simple materials are all you need to make a pleasing arrangement to wear. It's fun to design corsages and they make welcome gifts. There is no limit to the possibilities you can try.

In designing a corsage there are three things to consider: the flowers available, the costume, and the occasion. A tailored suit, for instance, might look best with a small, plain corsage or a boutonniere, while a party dress might be high-lighted by a velvet ribbon wristlet covered with flowers.

### Selecting and Conditioning Flowers

Any garden flower that keeps well in water can be used for a corsage. House-plants offer not only blossoms but foliage and are available when there are no garden flowers. Cones, seedpods and other dried materials should not be overlooked and they require no conditioning.

To harden or condition blooms and foliage, cut stems on a slant in the early morning or late evening and plunge them immediately into water up to their necks. Place them in a dark, cool place, free of drafts for several hours.

Some flowers need special conditioning. All woody stems—chrysanthemums, roses and flowering shrubs—should be crushed or pounded for 2 inches to allow a better intake of water. When the stem bleeds as do dahlias and forget-me-nots, sear the end with a match. Lilies should have the pollen removed to make them last longer and to avoid staining clothing.

### Equipment and Tools

The essential materials for making corsages are florist wire in different gauges, and floral tape. Green tape is best for general purposes, although white, brown and pastel shades are effective. Wire is used to keep the corsage light in weight and to give a pliable stem. If all the stems were left on the flowers, they would be heavy and bulky and difficult to assemble. The floral tape covers the wire and preserves the moisture in the flower.

Ribbons may or may not be used depending upon the design. Corsage accessories of various kinds may be obtained for special effects.

Other items which are needed include a sharp knife, scissors, masking tape and a stapler.

### Preparing Flowers and Foliage

There are many ways to wire, tape and arrange flowers in corsages. With

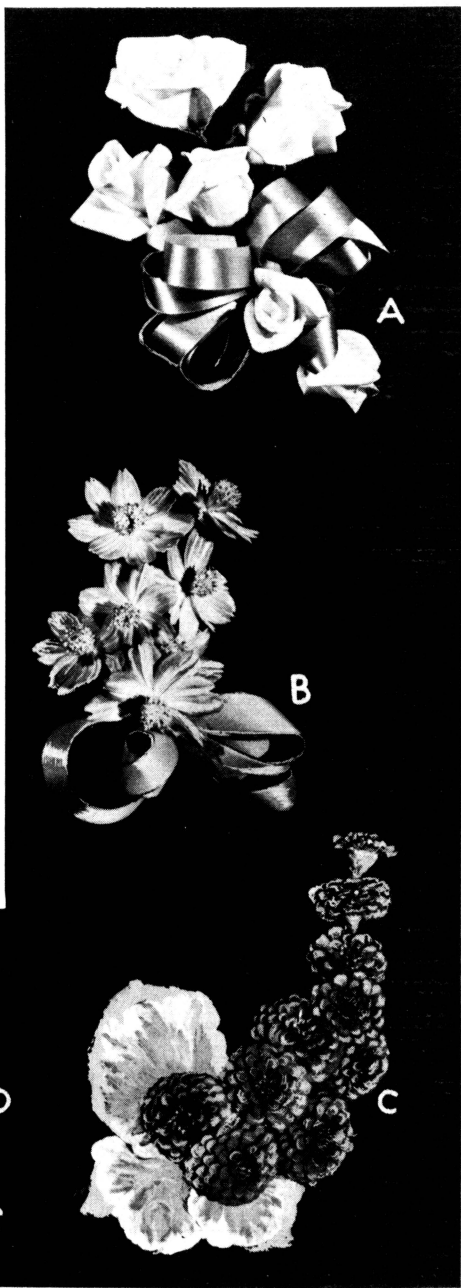


practice you can work out methods best suited to individual flowers.

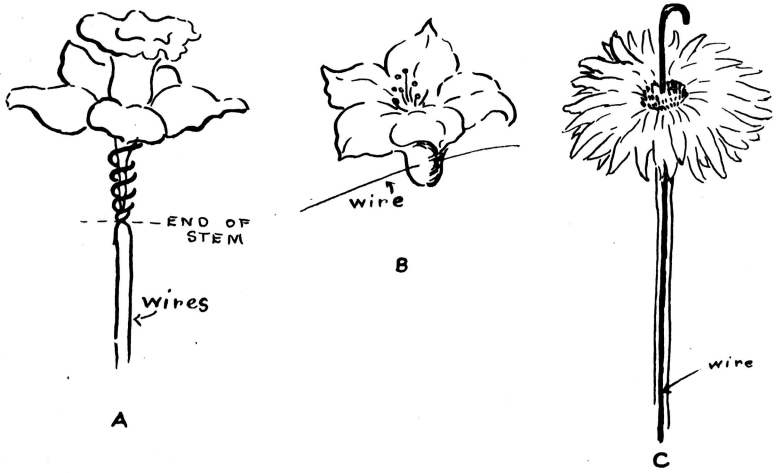
The 18-inch length of wire is usually chosen because it allows a double amount to form the stem. This makes it possible to use a light weight wire which is easier to handle. The long wire stems are necessary also for assembling the flowers. Shorter lengths can be used for small arrangements.

To use one method of wiring, bend the 18-inch piece of wire just short of the center. Place the short side on a parallel with the natural flower stem (which is 1 inch long). Make the bend in the wire as high as possible under the flower head, holding the stem and wire securely together. Twist the longer half of the wire around the stem and the parallel wire several times or until the end of the natural flower stem is reached. Now straighten the two wires to form the new stem. Daffodils are representative of flowers adapted to this method. (See A, page 18.)

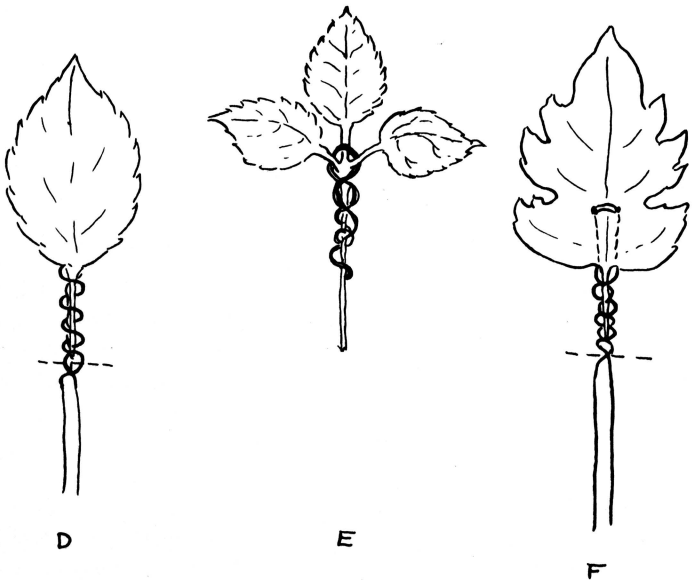
Flowers with a heavy green cup or calyx such as gladiolii, marigolds and



Arrangements to wear. A. Yellow garden roses with pale green ribbon. B. Bronze cosmos with matching ribbon. C. Small red zinnias with variegated geranium leaves. D. Daisies for the hair.



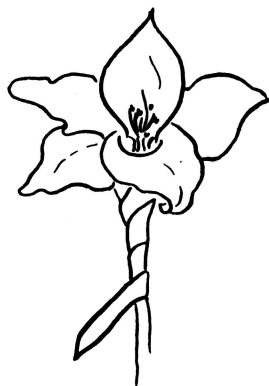
Methods of wiring flowers.



Methods of wiring foliage.



A



B

Taping a flower.

roses, should be wired in the following manner: Break off stem just below the calyx. Push the 18-inch length of wire through the calyx until there is an equal amount of wire on each side. Now bend the wire and twist it together a few times to form the new stem. (See B, page 18.)

Small flowers with a flat head, such as daisies, calendulas and chrysanthemums, require another kind of wiring. Use a fine 4-inch length of wire. If the stem is too fragile for the wire to go up through, hold the wire parallel to the stem and then push it up into the blossom head. Turn the end of the wire down into a hook and pull the hook into the head out of sight. (See C, page 18.)

Floral tape is used next in making the arrangement. Take the wired flower in one hand and hold the end of the tape slightly below the point where the wire shows, twirl the stem

bringing the tape neatly up to a point above the wire and then all the way down to the length of the desired stem. The twirling is done by the stem, not by the blossom. Pull the tape down, stretching it if necessary, so it completely covers all the wire and fits snugly.

Wire and tape foliage in much the same fashion.

### Assembling

There is no recipe for assembling a good corsage. Imagination, originality and a flair for something unusual will result in interesting arrangements. Line, form, color, texture, proportion and balance are the art principles involved.

If the finished corsage is pleasing to the eye, the design is good.

Corsages should be worn with the flowers in their natural position—stems down, heads up.

## WHERE TO FIND IT

	Page
Classification of Flowers .....	3
Annuals .....	3
Perennials .....	4
Bulbs .....	4
Roses .....	5
Wild Flowers .....	6
Purpose and Location of Flowers .....	7
Flower Garden .....	7
Borders .....	8
Flowers Among Shrubbery .....	8
Rock Gardens .....	9
Wall Gardens .....	9
Wild Flower Gardens .....	9
Soil Requirements .....	9
Planting and Propagating .....	9
Care During Growth .....	10
Flower Arrangements .....	11
Selecting Materials .....	11
Background for Arrangement .....	12
Containers .....	13
Types of Arrangement .....	14
Basic Principles of Flower Arrangement .....	14
Flowers To Wear .....	16
Selecting and Conditioning Flowers .....	16
Equipment and Tools .....	16
Preparing Flowers and Foliage .....	16
Assembling .....	19

**GROWING AND SHARING FLOWERS**  
**HOME GROUNDS 1**  
(To be used with 4-H Cir. 106)  
**PROJECT RECORD**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader \_\_\_\_\_

**MY CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Number of club meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Yard Improvement project meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times I demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times I exhibited flowers \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bouquets I exhibited \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times I judged flower arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

Took part in a tour? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years this project has been carried \_\_\_\_\_

The club activities I helped with were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The community service activities I helped with were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THINGS TO DO IN THIS PROJECT

1. Grow ten or more kinds of flowers. Select those that will provide blossoms during spring, summer and fall.
2. Arrange 25 or more bouquets for the home, church, sick room or for special occasions.
3. Be able to identify at least 10 wild flowers. Make a survey of your community and record wild flowers found there with date of bloom.
4. Make 2 or more bouquets of wild flowers. (Brown-eyed Susan, Queen Ann's Lace, daisy, wild rose, spiderwort, wild aster, wild verbena or butterfly weed.)
5. Make 5 corsages for yourself or others to wear.
6. Enter flowers in a local flower show. This show may be given by your club.

**AMOUNT DONE**


The flowers I planted were \_\_\_\_\_

My flower arrangements were shared by \_\_\_\_\_

The wild flowers I found nearby were \_\_\_\_\_

The wild flowers I arranged were \_\_\_\_\_

I made corsages to wear for \_\_\_\_\_

My entries in the local flower show were \_\_\_\_\_

The most interesting part of this project was \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the future I plan to grow \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Leader

### MY STORY

(Write down what you did in your home grounds project. Include anything you think will make an interesting story.)

MY STORY (Continued)

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES  
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