



# Young America Horticulture Contests

## National Junior Horticultural Association

Age Group:
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 to 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 to 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual
Project Area:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Horticulture
<input type="checkbox"/> Experimental Horticulture
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Propagation

Use this ENTRY PAGE as the first page of your project report. Fill it out completely. See the project specific guidelines listed for the project area being entered to learn what else to do. Please print, type, or write your report legibly.

Name/Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** The age group is your age as of December 31 of this year. Group projects should be entered based on the age of the oldest group member. For group projects, indicate the name of the youth who is preparing the report. List the names and ages of all youth participants in the project under number 2 of the Specific Guidelines.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.

OVERALL RATING	Suggestions or comments of judges:	
Excellent		
Good		
Fair		
Poor		

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Judging Committee



## DIVISION A: GARDENING

### National Junior Horticultural Association Young America Horticulture Contest

Gardening is fun and popular. You can raise fruits and vegetables to eat or flowers and trees to enjoy. You can grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, herbs, indoor plants, trees or shrubs or any combination of plants. If you don't have a garden, why not start one? Then enter it in this Young America Gardening Contest!

AGE GROUPS	SUGGESTED PROJECTS
5 to 8 years	Grow six (6) or more different kinds of plants.
9 to 11 years	Grow eight (8) or more different kinds of plants.
12 to 14 years	Grow ten (10) or more different kinds of plants.

Your age group depends on how old you will be on December 31. In other words, if you are 11 years old while you work on your project, but will be 12 by the end of the year, you must plan your project for the 12-14 age group. Any participant who previously was awarded a Grand National Award for Gardening is ineligible to further compete in the same age category, but may compete in the next higher age category (For example, if a six year old wins, the next year must enter 9-11 age category rather than 5-8).

### **GROUP PROJECTS**

Groups can also enter projects. A group is defined as a 4-H club, school class(es), or other organized youth group. The age category to use when submitting the report should be based on the age of the oldest youth involved in the project.

### **GETTING STARTED**

1. Choose the plants you want to grow.
2. Get adult help and advice.
3. Plan ahead -- where to plant, when to prepare soil, etc.

### **RECORDS TO KEEP**

1. List the kinds of plants you grow or care for. Give variety names if you can.
2. Draw a plan of your garden showing its size, where it is in relation to buildings, where your plants grow. If you take care of houseplants, trees, or shrubs, tell where they are.
3. Keep a notebook telling when and where you got your seeds or plants; dates of planting, thinning, fertilizing and so on; any problems you have; how much and when you harvested, how much any trees or shrubs grew; and anything else to do with your garden or plants. The notebook will be a good reference when preparing your report.
4. Take photographs of your project. Record date and a caption of what is shown in the picture.

### **SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE**

Be sure you grow enough different types of plants (such as tomatoes, sweet corn, zinnias, pansies, lilac, apple and so on) for your age group. Each kind of plant comes in many varieties. Some common tomato varieties for the home garden are 'Big Boy', 'Celebrity', and 'Sweet 100'. Some zinnia varieties are 'Lipstick' and 'Firecracker'. (Note: It is best to have more than one plant of a variety/type of plant in the event something happens to one of the plants).

Some flowers do not bloom the first year after planting. Most fruit plants such as apples and strawberries will not produce fruit in the first year.

Some plants are easier to grow than others. If this is your first garden, you should pick easy plants. If you are careful, you could grow a more difficult plant your first year. The chart below lists some common plants and tells how easy or difficult they are to grow.

<b>PLANTS</b>	<b>EASIEST TO GROW</b>	<b>NOT SO EASY TO GROW</b>	<b>DIFFICULT TO GROW</b>
Vegetables	cucumbers, lettuce, radish, snap bean, onion, tomato	beet, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, pea, pepper, pumpkin	melon, sweet corn, Swiss chard
Flowers	cosmos, daffodil, marigold, petunia, tulip, zinnia	chrysanthemum, delphinium, geranium, gladiolus, pansy	columbine, dahlia, rose
Indoor Plants	coleus, Christmas cactus, jade plant, snakeplant, Swedish ivy	African violet, cactus, philodendron, rubber plant	gloxinia, hyacinth, piggyback plant
Fruits (small)	strawberry	grape, raspberry, blackberry	blueberry
Fruits (tree)	apple, cherry	peach, pear, plum, apricot	nut trees
Trees and Shrubs	crabapple, maple, pine, forsythia, lilac	magnolia, oak, redbud, yew, mock orange	spruce, azalea, wisteria

Plants are listed as difficult to grow because of slow germination, amount of space or length of time needed, insect or disease problems, or special requirements such as soil, fertilizer, light, humidity or watering. Because climates vary so widely, you should check with your county Extension office, local garden center, nursery, or other horticultural professional for suggestions and advice on what grows best in your area.

Books are also available at your local library. Some you may wish to review are:

Bradley, Clare. *Fun With Gardening*. Bath, UK: Southwater, 1996.

Carlson, Laurie. *Green Thumbs*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1995.

Gertley, Jan and Michael. *The Family Garden*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 1997.

Gibson, Ray. *What Shall I Grow?* Usborne Publishing, 1997.

Harris, Linda D. *Growing Seeds: Starting From Scratch*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1999.

Herd, Meg. *Learn and Play In the Garden*. New York: Barron's, 1997.

Kite, Patricia. *Garden Wizardry for Kids*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educ. Series, 1995.

Morris, Karyn. *Jumbo Book of Gardening*. Toronto: Kids Canadian Press, 2000.

Pranis, Eve and Hale, Jack. *GrowLab: A Complete Guide to Gardening in the Classroom*. 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT, 1999.

Talmade, Ellen. *Container Gardening for Kids*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1996.

Waters, Marjorie. *The Victory Garden Kids' Book*. Old Saybrook, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 1997.

4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, *Horticulture*. Developed by University of Illinois, Published by 4-H Cooperative Extension, 1999.

4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, *Gardening*. Developed by Purdue 4-H Development Program, Published by 4-H Cooperative Extension, 1999.

## **PREPARING YOUR REPORT**

To enter your project for evaluation, make a report on it following the guidelines listed below and send it to the project chair between May 1 and September 1. Every effort will be made to return your project, but you may want to make a copy of the project just in case a problem would occur. Reports will be returned via your state leader (if your state has a leader) or will be mailed back to you.

### **General Guidelines**

1. Your entire report should be in your own handwriting. If you type it, please note at the end of the report that you actually typed it.
2. If you want to include some type of computer or word processor program in your report, include only original information that you have developed yourself and not a commercial or prepared program. Also be sure to indicate that you developed the entire portion done by a word processor.
3. Do not include a daily diary as part of your report. Just include totals, summaries and/or important items.
4. Enclose only the information requested. (Do not include other project materials or forms that might have been a part of another youth organizations' report.) You may add personal artwork to the cover or inside pages if you wish.
5. Enclose your report in a thin, inexpensive binder or folder (not a thick, heavy binder or notebook).

### **REPORT FORMAT**

Please organize your report into the following listed sections. Please review the report to be certain that all sections are included. Young students with emerging writing skills or those with developmental delays may choose to dictate their story into a cassette tape or use rebuses to enable them to complete their projects. They may be creative in supplying the other information, i.e., cut and paste pictures to place on their map rather than draw freehand.

Part 1: Fill out the Entry Page and use it as the first page of your report. Put your name and page number on every page after that.

Part 2: Explain briefly what you did in your project (this is where you list all participants for a group report). This may be in narrative form or a simple listing of all the things you did for this project. More detail is required in Part 5.

Part 3: List types, varieties, and numbers of plants you grew and cared for.

Part 4: Draw a plan showing the location of your plants (a map of your garden or where your plants were used). Indicate size of garden in square feet.

Part 5: Project Report. Describe what you did in your project including: important dates such as planting, transplanting, thinning, first harvest (this information can be placed in a chart or table); amount of rainfall by week or month (for outdoor projects); cultural practices such as fertilizing (analysis and amount used); mulching or other soil conservation practices; special techniques such as using pre-germinated seeds, hot caps or tents, staking or caging; insect, disease and other pest problems and how you tried to control them.

This section should be a rather detailed description of what you actually did in your project. Much of this information could be put in tables or charts and would be much easier to read. If you are comparing two or more varieties of one type of plant, be sure to include information that will help you decide which variety was the best (date of first harvest, quality, and total yield would all be important for vegetables and fruits). This section is really just a summary of the things you should have been recording in your garden notebook.

Part 6: Include several photos of your project showing a nice sequence from the beginning to the end. They may be black and white or color. Mount the photographs in such a manner that they will not become separated from your notebook. Each photo should have a short caption (including the date picture was taken) describing what is shown.

Part 7: Write a story telling one of the following:

- a. What you learned from your project;
- b. What you learned from the plants you grew;
- c. What your project meant to you.

If you are in the 5-8 year old category, the story should be 50-75 words in length. For those in the 9-11 year old age category, the story should be 75 to 100 words long. If you are in the 12-14 year old age category, the story should be between 100 and 200 words.

Send your entry no later than September 15 to:

Dr. Brian Stark  
2522 N 88th St.,  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
Phone 402 202-8834  
Email: [heystarky@yahoo.com](mailto:heystarky@yahoo.com)

Your report will be judged on thoroughness, accuracy, originality, photos, and depth and breadth of project.