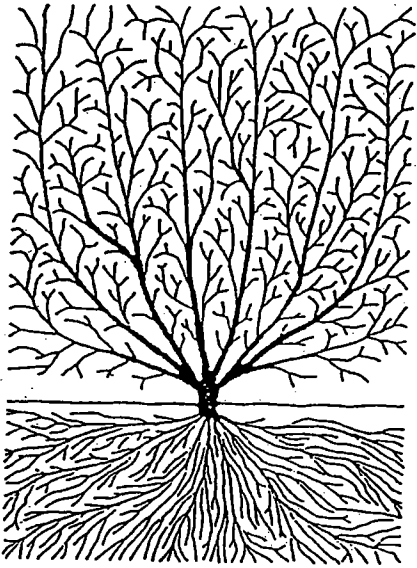
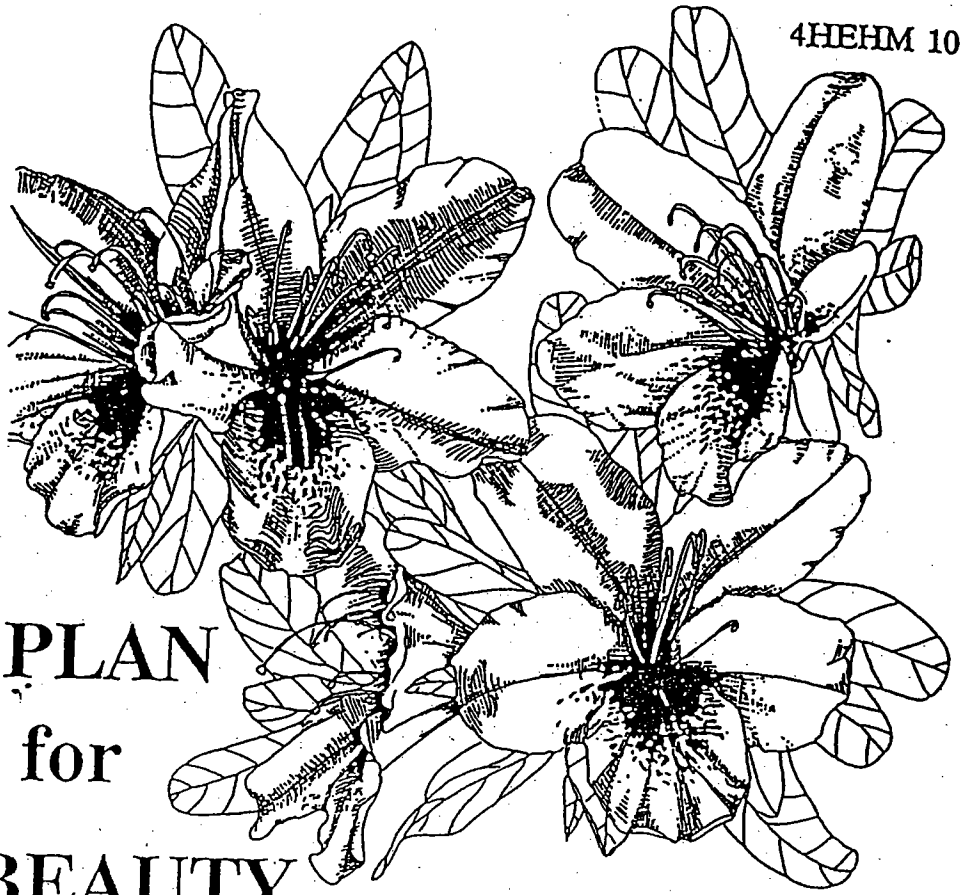


NAME _____
CLUB _____

4HEHM 10

PLANT
and

PLAN
for
BEAUTY



Unit 1 - Growing Annual Flowers

Name of Member _____ *Age* _____ *County* _____ *Year* _____

Address _____

Name of Parent _____

Name of 4-H Club _____

Years in club work _____ *Years in this project* _____

Name of adult 4-H leader _____

Address _____

THE CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking

My Heart to greater loyalty

My Hands to larger service; and

My Health to better living for

*My Club, my Community, and my
Country.*

THE CLUB MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"



I have checked this record and found it to be satisfactory.

(SIGNATURE OF EXTENSION AGENT)

UNIT I Growing Annual Flowers

Of the three main types of plants used in the flower garden - annuals, biennials, and perennials - annual are one of the most useful. Annuals are plants started from seed, attain their full growth, flower and produce seed in 12 months or less, then die.

Annuals may be divided into two groups:

1. Hardy - will withstand a light freeze and therefore can be planted in the fall or early spring.
2. Tender - plants started indoors and planted out when danger of frost has passed. These plants can also be planted in the summer for fall blooms.

The purpose of this unit is to teach the identification and growth of annuals and the ability to show others how to grow them. You will also have some flowers to use at home or to exhibit at fairs and flower shows.

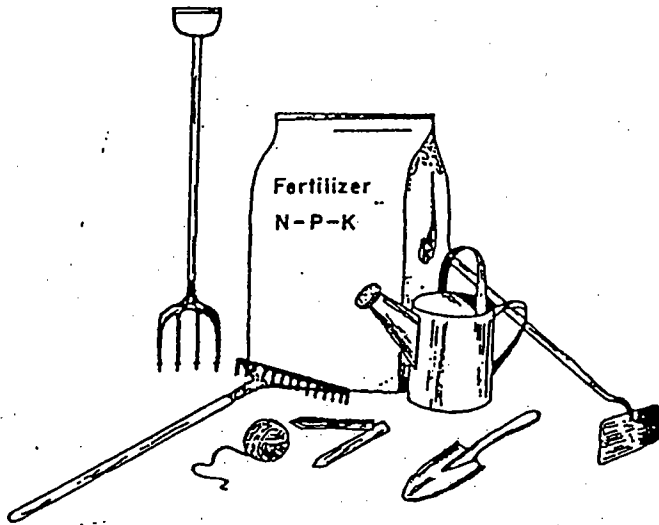
WHAT IS EXPECTED

1. The garden area must total 100 or more square feet.
2. Grow five or more annual flowers, starting with young plants.
3. Learn to identify the leaves and flowers of five or more different annuals.
4. Give a demonstration or prepare an exhibit for a flower show or 4H event.
5. Prepare an accurate report of your flower project, including a sketch or plan of the planting.

MATERIALS YOU NEED

First, choose a location for the flower garden. The total area should be at least 100 square feet, but this may be split into several flower borders. Choose a sunny, well-drained site since most annuals need plenty of sun.

Obtain paper, pencil, and ruler for making a garden plan.



Tools should include a spade or spading fork, iron rake, trowel, hoe, heavy cord, labels and watering can.

Peat moss and a commercial fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8, are the other materials needed for this project. Agricultural limestone will be needed if the soil is highly acid.

MAKING THE PLAN

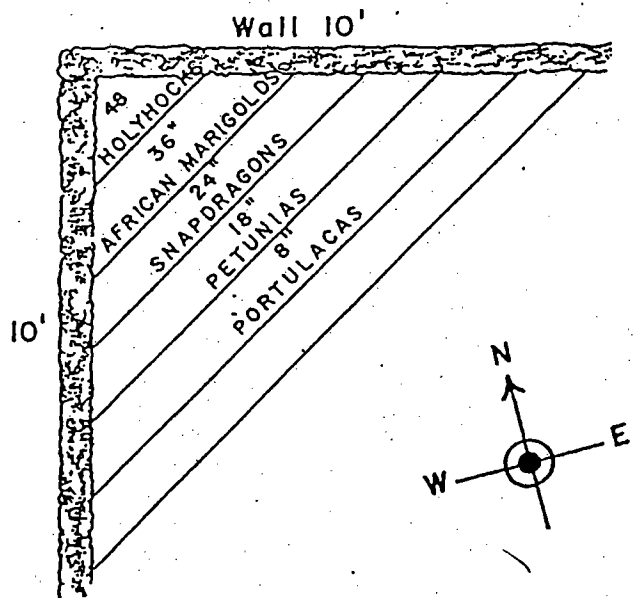
Measure the garden area and make a plan on paper using a definite scale, such as: 1/2 inch on paper equals one foot of garden. A smaller scale may be necessary for larger gardens. Mark the measurements in feet on your garden plan.

Buildings, walls, fences or trees near the garden should also

appear on the plan, plus an arrow indicating north direction.

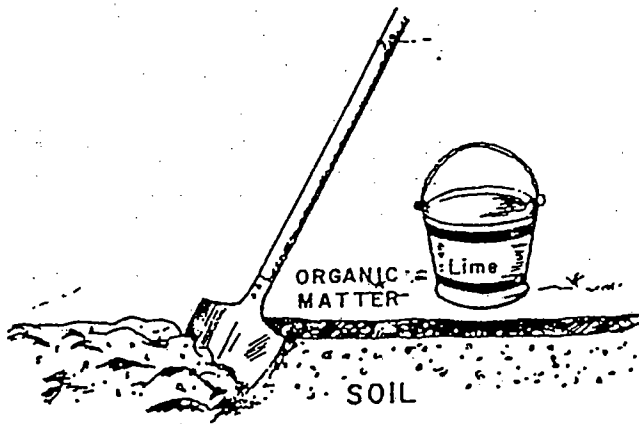
Talk over with your leader and parents what types of annual flowers you would like to grow.

Check seed catalogs or garden books for the height of the plants you have selected, plan to grow the tall ones in the back and the shorter ones in front. For this project they may be grown in rows so they may be weeded easily.



PREPARING THE SOIL

Some soils will need lime before planting flowers. Using a trowel, dig 8-10 samples of the garden soil to a depth of 4 to 5 inches. Mix these together, dry the mixture at room temperature, and submit about one-half pint of the mixture in a clean container to your county agent's office. Mark on the container your name, address, and what you wish to grow.



If the soil test indicates lime is needed, apply it before spading.

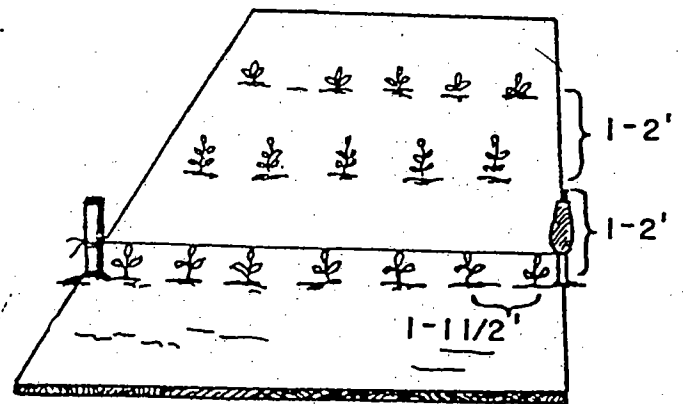
Also spread some peat moss, leaf mold or well-rotted manure on the surface, then spade the garden turning under lime and organic matter.

Break up the lumps with a hoe and smooth the surface with an iron rake, taking off all stones and very hard lumps of soil.

Add 1 1/2 pounds of a 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer per 100 square feet of area, and work well into the top 6 inches of the soil. (Water the planting area to settle the soil.) The garden is now ready for planting.

PLANTING THE GARDEN

The County Agent can help locate a greenhouse, garden store, or nursery where plants may be bought for the garden. The plan will help in deciding how many plants will be needed.



Use a heavy cord for making straight rows. Space plants about 1 to 1 1/2 feet apart in rows which are 1 to 2 feet apart.

In a flower garden, mark straight rows with the use of heavy cord. Space rows 1 to 2 feet apart and the plants 1 to 1 1/2 feet apart in the rows, depending on size they will attain when mature. Remember to place tall growing plants in back row and low ones in front.

Set plants in soil at same level they were growing in pot or flat. Press soil around plant to get good soil-root contact. Trowel may be used to dig holes.

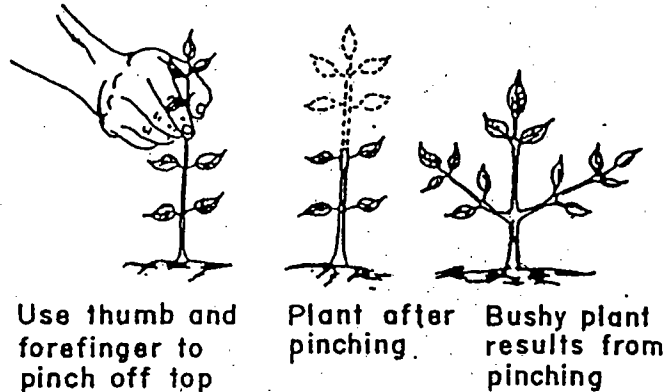
A cloudy day or late afternoon is a good time for transplanting. Some shade, such as inverted flower pots or strawberry baskets, may be necessary for a few days.

Give the plants a little water each day with the watering can until they are established.

In spring and summer you may need additional fertilizer for good plant growth. Add 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of 6-6-6- or 8-8-8 per 100 square feet of area, or 100 foot row 3 to 4 weeks after planing. Soil should be moist when you fertilize, and the fertilizer should be watered in immediately after you apply it. Keep fertilizer away from the stems of the plants.

PINCHING

Most annuals grow tall and spindly if left to grow naturally.



To make them bushy, "pinch" back plants when they have 3 or 4 sets of leaves. Using the thumb and finger, remove the top inch of growth. Do not pinch cockscomb, poppies, stock, or balsam.

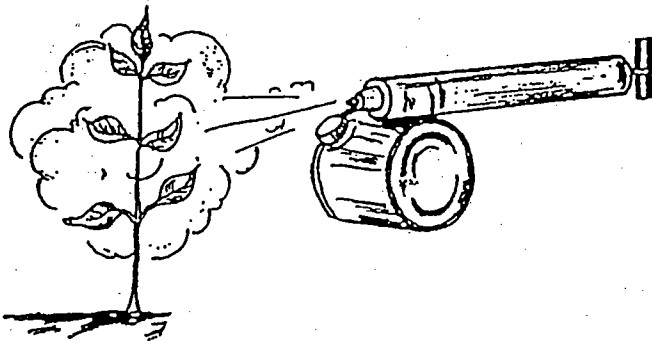
CARE OF THE GARDEN

Weed Control - Weeds are one of the main problems in the flower garden. Unless they are removed early while still small, they will compete with the flowers for moisture and fertilizer. Cultivate the soil surface lightly about once a week. Go no deeper than about 1/2 inches with the hoe, otherwise plant's roots near the surface may be injured.

A light mulch of about an inch of wood chips, pine needles, or leaves on the soil surface will help conserve moisture and control weeds.

Watering - During dry periods water the garden about once a week to a depth of 8-12 inches. Use a trowel to make certain that the moisture has reached this depth. Frequent light watering will only encourage shallow rooting.

Disease and Insect Control - Insect and disease problems must be recognized and control measures started. Check with your county extension office for recommendations on selection and application of pesticides.



FLOWER IDENTIFICATION

Identification and growing of flowers are closely related. You will want to recognize young plants by their leaves so you can tell them from weeds. You will also want to identify plants by their flowers for exhibition at fairs and flower shows, and when friends come to see your garden.

To complete this unit you should be able to identify five different annual flowers. Seed catalogs, garden magazines, books, and slides which your leader may have, should help in flower identification.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXHIBITS

Other people may be interested in knowing how to grow annual flowers and will ask you about your project. This can be shown either by demonstrating certain practices or by preparing an exhibit which will explain flower growing to them.

Ideas for Demonstrations -

Short demonstrations of about five minutes with a catchy title help create and hold the interest of others. Show them as well as tell them how you do certain practices in your flower garden.

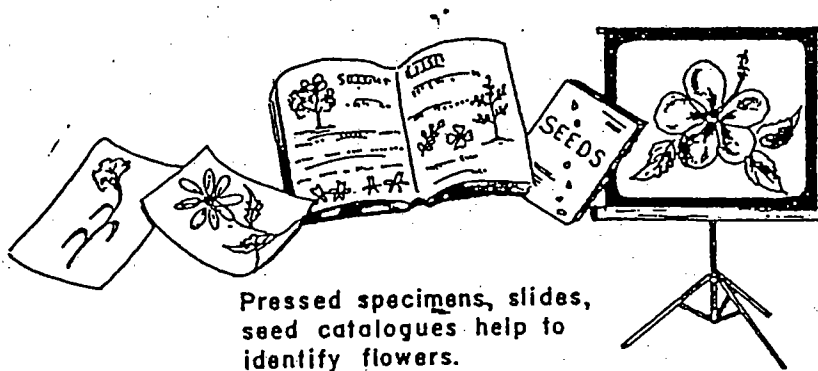
1. **What Site.** (Use a blackboard to show why you chose the site for your garden.)
2. **Easy Does It.** (Show how to tap plant from flower pots before planting in the garden.)

3. **What's In The Bag?**
(Use a blackboard to show what the numbers 6-6-6 mean on a fertilizer bag.)
4. **Pinched Again.** (show how to pinch a plant and explain why this is done.)

EXHIBITING FLOWERS

There will be many opportunities during the season to enter flowers in fairs and flower shows. Many gardeners hesitate to enter flowers because of lack of knowledge on what is expected.

1. **Remember -** Read the premium list carefully to make certain the exact number of specimens is entered in the proper class and named correctly if the premium list requires labeling. Uniformity in size, color, age, and shape of flowers counts heavily in flower judging. Make certain that there are no signs of insect, disease, or handling injury on the flowers or foliage. Judges also expect an entry to look fresh, to be neither too old nor too immature, and to have strong stems of average length for that plant.

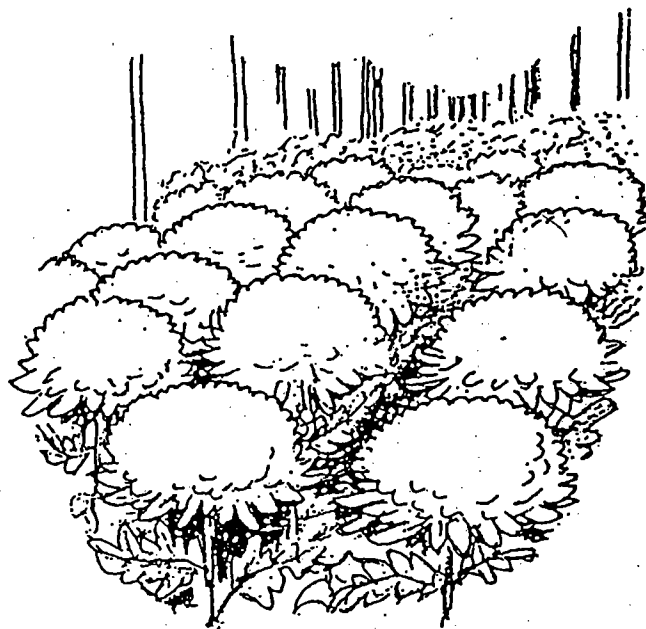
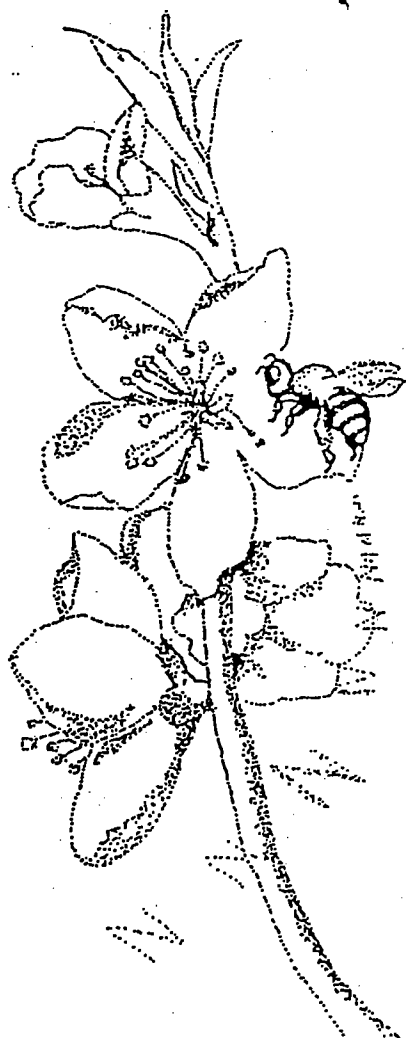


2. Preparing Flowers for Exhibit. Flowers that have been properly prepared for exhibition will have a much better chance of winning than will flowers which are hastily picked just before the show.
- a. Several days before the show, check the premium list to determine what classes you can enter.
 - b. Cut the flowers in the evening of the day before the show. The food supply within the plant is greatest at this time of day. Use a knife to cut the flowers as scissors crush the stem.
 - c. Place the flowers in water as they are cut to prevent wilting. Cut a few extra flowers in case of damage in handling.
 - d. Keep containers of flowers in a cool room overnight. Wilted flowers may be revived by placing them in water which is 110°F. (Just warm to the touch.)



LOOKING AHEAD

We hope you have enjoyed growing flowers. There are many more experiences in store for you. Talk with your club leader or Extension Agent about other units in this project.



Prepared by S.A. Rose, Assistant Ornamental Horticulturist. Much of the material is based on information contained in a Northeast cooperative 4-H club publication by the Agricultural Extension Services of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Growing Annual Flowers.

Unit 1 Record

1. How big was your annual flower garden? _____ feet long, and _____ feet wide.
2. Did you buy the plants? YES _____ NO _____
3. How many times did you fertilize the plants? _____
Was the fertilizer purchased? _____
4. Which plants did you pinch? _____
5. Did you have any trouble from insects or disease? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, how did you control them? _____
6. About how much did the materials for this project cost you? _____

My Annual Flower Garden Record

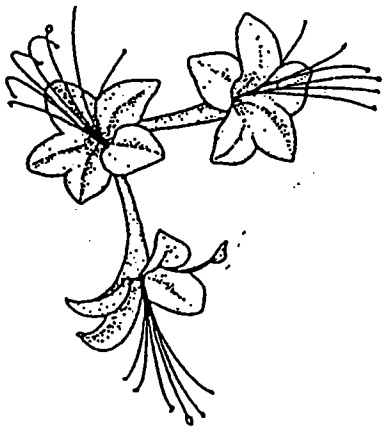
<i>Name of Annual Flower</i>	<i>Date Planted</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Number of plants</i>	<i>Remarks on trouble, use, etc.</i>
Petunia (example)	April 15	Pink	12	Use in shrub border

<i>Flowers Exhibited</i>	<i>Where Exhibited</i>	<i>Awards</i>	<i>List below any meetings, lectures or tours you attended concerning this project.</i>

Story of 4-H Club Project

Tell your reasons for selecting a home grounds beautification project, help received from other members of your family, work you did, pleasant experiences, difficulties in carrying out projects and new skills you learned.





Pictures of Your Project

Before

After



