2018 SC 4-H Small Garden Project - Individual

Who: youth ages 5-18 as of January 1, 2018

What: prepare, plant, maintain, and harvest a small garden and complete contest record book

When: Friday, April 13 – Tuesday, July 31

Why: learn what it takes to grow the food we eat

How: call your local 4-H Agent for more information about the contest or visit the project website:
www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/project_areas/natural_resources/small_garden/index.html

Registration and Rules:

- All participants in this project must be current SC 4-H members for the 2017-18 club year.
- For a registration fee of $10 youth will receive a record book, at least 2 seed packets, and project newsletters. An electronic copy of the record book and newsletters will also be available in case extra copies are needed.
- Youth will be required to prepare, plant, maintain, harvest and utilize a garden plot of no less than 50 sq ft. If the youth does not have space for a 50 sq ft garden, every effort will be made by the 4-H Agent to provide space.
- Youth must plant at least 2 of the seed varieties they are given (one pollinator and one edible). In addition, they must plant at least 2 other edible crops of their choice. If spacing allows, you may plant more than 4 types of crops. Seeds/seedlings must be in the ground no later than Wednesday, May 31.

Record Book:

- Record books are to be completed by the youth throughout the course of the project and turned in to the Extension Office no later than Tuesday, July 31. Record books are age appropriate: Cloverbuds (ages 5-8) and Juniors and Seniors (ages 9-18). Ages are determined as of January 1, 2018.

Judging:

- Youth will be divided into three categories prior to judging: Cloverbuds 5-8, Juniors 9-13, and Seniors 14-18 (ages determined as of January 1, 2018). Cloverbuds will be given participation ribbons upon completion of the project. Junior and Senior record books will be judged on the county level. One winner in each category will be sent to the regional level for record book competition. One winner in each age category on the regional level will be sent to the state level for competition. The top Junior and top Senior record book will receive awards. Awards are sponsored by the SC Master Gardener.
Program. Only projects scoring 165/220 (75%) or higher are eligible to move on to Regional and State level judging.

- Youth should expect at least one site visit from judges. Participants are encouraged to be on site for this visit. Dates of these site visits will be coordinated by your local Agent.
- The actual garden plot and the record book will both be taken into consideration upon judging on the county level, which will be done by qualified Extension Agents and/or gardeners. Only material included in/with the record books, along with attached score sheets from the local level, will be judged on the regional and state levels.
- State winners from 2017 (Junior, Senior, and Group) are not eligible to compete for prizes in the same age division for 2 consecutive years. (For example, if you participated as a Junior in a group project that won the state level in 2017, you would have to register as an individual to be eligible to compete or have aged up to compete in the senior-level division.)

**Project Garden Timeline:**

- Friday, April 13  
  Deadline to register for the project
- Thursday, May 31  
  Deadline to plant project garden
- Friday, July 27  
  Deadline for gardens to be judged
- Tuesday, July 31  
  Record books due
- County winners will be announced no later than mid-August
- Regional and State winners will be announced no later than the end of September

**Resources:**

- Clemson Home and Garden Information Center:  
  [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/)
- SC Produce Availability Calendar:  
- County Clemson Extension Office:  
  [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/)

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