Welcome to the SC 4-H Small Garden Project! If this is your first time planting a garden, we hope that you are looking forward to tasting the food you grow. If your thumb is green from years past, we hope that you are excited about the upcoming growing season. Either way, 4-H is proud to have you in this project.

Our goal is for you to learn to prepare, plant, take care of, and harvest a garden. Maybe you will get to taste a vegetable you have never tried before or have enough produce to sell at the local farmers market. You have been provided with the rules for the project, as well as some of the seeds you will need. You will also receive a few of these Newsletters along the way. They may contain reminders of what to do next, tips for a better harvest, or recipes for your vegetables.

Who’s Gardening in SC?

- 110 total gardens in 29 of 46 SC counties
- 185 youth participants
  - 19 groups with 94 total youth
  - 91 individuals
- Top 5 Counties with the 4-H gardens:
  - Lexington with 21
  - Saluda with 8
  - Hampton and Greenville, each with 7
  - Lancaster with 6
- How did you register?
  - 61% of you registered online
  - 39% of you registered in office

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Helpful Resources

You are sure to have several questions to come up throughout this project. There are a lot of places you could turn to get answers to those questions. The links below will provide a great place to start.

- Clemson University’s Home & Garden Information Center - Vegetable Gardening  
  https://hgic.clemson.edu/category/vegetables/

- Clemson University’s Home & Garden Information Center - Vegetable & Fruits Problems  
  https://hgic.clemson.edu/category/problems+fruits-vegetables/

- Clemson University's Home and Garden Information Center - Pollinators  
  https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/native-pollinators/

And of course you can always contact your location County Extension Agent. A list of Agents by county and their contact information can be found here: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/co/index.html.

Garden Safety Check List

Check off the garden safety tips that you follow. Hint: adding this list to your Garden Project Record Book is a great idea.

_____ Always walk when carrying or working around tools. Don’t run!
_____ Use the right tool for the right job.
_____ Keep tools in good working condition.
_____ Carry hand tools with the sharp end pointing down.
_____ Lay rakes, hoes, and shovels pointed down when not in use. Stepping on the sharp end up can cause the tool to pop up and hit you in the head.
_____ Store water hoses and cans where they belong instead of leaving them in the yard.
_____ Put tools away when done working for the day.
_____ Wear correct footwear when working in the garden.
_____ Wearing garden gloves can protect against insect bites or skin irritations.
_____ Sunscreen and a hat are a great idea to prevent sunburn.
_____ Insect repellent will help reduce the risk of bites.
_____ Get rid of mosquito habitats. Dump any standing water and keep empty buckets turned upside down.
_____ Keep a water bottle nearby: for you, not the plants!
_____ Read the label and follow instructions on any chemicals you use.
_____ Consider safety for your pets that have access to the garden. What things might you do to make your garden safer for them?
Well, in this case, that depends. When it comes to gardening, we have lots of options: in containers, raised bed(s), or even acres. Here are some options:

**Square or Rectangular Raised Beds**: Area = Length x Width. So, 50 sq. ft. = what x what?
To determine the total square footage in a square or rectangular area, you will simply multiply the length of the area by the width of the area. See what the area of the examples below comes out to be?
- 5’ x 10’
- 4’ x 12’6”
- 3’ x 16’
- 2’ x 25’

**Round Raised Beds**: Area = \( \pi \times \text{Radius}^2 \). So, 50 sq. ft. = 3.14 x 3.989
To determine the total square footage in a circular area, you first need to determine the radius of the circle. The radius of the circle is the distance from the center of the circle to the outside of the circle. Once you know the radius of a circle multiply the radius by 2. Then multiply this figure by 3.14 to determine total square feet in the circular area.

**Containers**: Depending on the shape of your containers, use the methods above to figure the area of each container. Then, total the areas for all of the containers.

### From One Gardener to Another

Some of my best childhood memories are gardening with my grandparents at our home in upstate New York. We had a pretty large garden that included: asparagus, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, zucchini, butternut squash, green and yellow beans, and corn. We even had a patch of raspberries.

Gardening can be hard work. In addition to tending to the garden, there’s also time spent harvesting and then “putting up” so you can enjoy that fresh from the garden taste all year long. I can vividly remember snapping green and yellow beans on our screened porch to prepare them for pressure canning.

I hope the time you spend on your small garden project will leave you with beautiful memories. I’ll be gardening right along with you and have included a photo of one of my raised beds containing lettuce and spinach. It’s been producing so much that I have been able to share with friends and co-workers.

_Teresa M. Lott, SC Master Gardener Program State Coordinator_

### Dates to know:

- **Thursday, May 31**: Deadline to plant your garden.
- **Friday, July 27**: Deadline to have garden judged. Visit will be scheduled by your Agent.
- **Tuesday, July 31**: Project record books are due to your Extension Office.
Getting a Good Start

When I taught a garden class to some children last summer, I pointed out that for the garden to get a good start, each plant needed “food, water, friends, and a blanket.” I then explained that plants derive their food from both sunlight and the nutrients in the soil. Earthworms, or “friends” as I called them, loosen the soil to allow for air and water flow, in addition to breaking down the organic matter in the soil. Many plants do well with “blankets” in some form of mulch: hay, wood chips, or pine needles. However, probably the most important factor in all of this is choosing a good location.

When planning a garden, there are several things to consider about the garden location:
1. Amount of sun received
2. Accessibility
3. Good soil (proper nutrients, drainage, pH, etc.)

Knowing the amount of sunlight your garden location receives is vital. Many plants require full sun, while others must have at least partial shade in order to thrive. It often depends on the plant, so it is crucial to evaluate the needs of each plant when planning a garden layout.

Similarly, it is important to have good soil with proper drainage. While a few plants enjoy living in boggy areas, most prefer well-drained soil.

There are four main types of soil: sand, silt, clay, and loam. Sand is the best-drained of the four, but provides few nutrients on its own, and cannot retain nutrients from external sources. Clay is on the opposite end of the spectrum, being perfect for retaining nutrients, but far too thick and compact to allow for air and water circulation. This makes it far from ideal for gardening in. Silt is heavier than sand and lighter than clay, having a consistency that is a mixture of the two. It can retain nutrients and water well, but is still not ideal. Loam, a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter, is very nutrient-rich, good for drainage, and is considered the ideal planting compound.

Ultimately, you need to check the label on the plant’s packaging to see what the need of each plant is. There are also many helpful websites where you can research each plant’s needs. Some of my favorites are: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com) and [bonnieplants.com](http://bonnieplants.com).

Have fun getting a good start!

C. Grabbe,
2017 SC 4-H Small Garden Project Midlands Region and Overall State Junior Winner

For More Information on Your Project Seed

All supplied project seed packets are donated to SC 4-H by the Seed Fairy. These seeds are available for free to schools and community gardens. Read more about the Seed Fairy: [www.clemson.edu/extension/school-gardening/seed-fairy.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/school-gardening/seed-fairy.html).
Meet the SC 4-H Natural Resources Committee

This statewide 4-H project would not be possible without the hard work of the SC 4-H Natural Resources Committee and others that have helped to design, implement, and improve this project each year. If you see them in your county, make sure to tell them thanks!

Lauren Burdine, York County 4-H Agent  
[ Email Address ]

Dr. Ashley Burns, Assistant Director of SC 4-H  
[ Email Address ]

Julia Cox, Aiken and Edgefield County 4-H Agent  
[ Email Address ]

Mallory Dailey, Oconee County 4-H Agent and SC 4-H Natural Resources Committee Chair  
[ Email Address ]

Steve Hucks, Lancaster County 4-H Agent  
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