

# Alabama 4-H Grows Garden Project

Tiers I, II, III, and IV  
Summer Gardening Project

The Alabama 4-H Grows Garden Project offers four tiers, or levels, that provide young people with hands-on gardening experiences. Tiers I, II, III, and IV are currently available to all youth. Register in 4HOnline or with your county Extension office.

**Tier I** is a novice gardening project. It addresses having limited access to gardening space, such as living in an apartment or an urban setting. Youth enrolled in the tier I project will grow three Bonnie Plants (tomato, pepper, eggplant) or comparable plants in 5-gallon buckets or similar sized containers while keeping a gardening journal. The focus will be on learning to garden and incorporating fresh vegetables into family meals.

The fee for tier I is \_\_\_\_\_ which includes the following: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tier II** continues the development of gardening skills while providing gardening experiences that promote production with an increased number of plants. The summer project will include the following types of plants: tomato (3), assorted pepper (6), eggplant (3), yellow squash/zucchini (2) or other comparable seeds or plants. The focus will continue to be on learning to garden, incorporating fresh vegetables into family meals, and keeping a gardening journal. This project is designed for a 4'x12' raised bed or traditional soil garden that provides approximately 60 square feet of garden space.

The fee for tier II is \_\_\_\_\_ which includes the following: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tier III** is an advanced project that continues the development of gardening skills while promoting produce production and starting a produce business. The size (number of plants) for this project is up to the discretion of the participant. Since the focus is on starting a business, an adequate number of plants needs to be grown to meet the desired goal. It is suggested that the project include tomatoes (6), assorted peppers (12), eggplants (6), yellow squash/zucchini (6), or other comparable seeds and plants. Of course, the participant can choose to grow any assortment of plants. For example, they can choose to grow 24 tomatoes as their project. The focus will be to introduce young people to the concept of forming a business, creating a business plan, and marketing and selling produce to the community through various outlets, such as a local farmers market. This project will require approximately 144 square feet of raised bed or 200 square feet of traditional gardening space.

The fee for tier III is \_\_\_\_\_ which includes the following: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tier IV** is an advanced project that encourages youth to use their gardening skills to grow produce that they donate to a local food bank or other organization as a means of helping others. This project is in keeping with the 4-H mission and supports Extension's GROW MORE GIVE MORE Project. The size (number of plants) for this project is up to the discretion of the participant. Participants are required to keep a gardening journal.

The fee for tier IV is \_\_\_\_\_ which includes the following: \_\_\_\_\_

## Are you ready to garden?

Any youth, 9–18 years old by January 1, may participate in either the tier I, II, III, or IV Alabama 4-H Grows Garden Project. To participate, youth will need to sign up by May 1 using 4HOnline. When signing in to 4HOnline, choose either the tier I, II, III, or IV garden project. Details for the Alabama 4-H Grows fall gardening project, including any fee and start date, will be communicated through your county Extension office. Details about the various project levels and any helpful gardening information will be communicated to participants throughout the fall. When participants have registered, they will be contacted by their county 4-H agent regarding how to pick up their plants and associated materials.

For more information, contact the \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension office at \_\_\_\_\_.

