Getting Started

Step 1: Enroll in the Alabama 4-H Grows Program, select Tier I Project, and pay the registration fee through 4HOnline. If you need help, contact your county Extension office.

- Date completed: ______________________

Step 2: Watch the Alabama 4-H Grows Tier I video/webinar. Check with your county Extension office for details on how to view the webinar.

- Date completed: ______________________

Selecting Your Garden Containers

Step 3: Even though you will be growing your garden in containers, they still need to receive at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. The advantage to growing in containers is that you will be able to move the plants from one area to another to achieve the desired hours of daylight that your garden needs. It will be helpful if you have a water spigot or water source close by. Since the plants are in containers, they may dry out at a faster rate, requiring you to water them every day or every other day.

- Date site selected: ______________________

Step 4: When you receive your three gardening containers, drill drainage holes along the bottom edge or in the bottom of your container. This will allow excess water to drain from the container. Failure to provide adequate drainage may result in the roots of your plants receiving too much water and therefore leading to your garden failing. Drill at least six evenly spaced holes that are 1/4” in diameter around the bottom edge of the container. Once holes are drilled, fill each bucket with commercial garden soil to within two inches of the top of the container. Water the container and allow the soil to settle. Add any additional soil to bring the soil level back within two inches of the container’s top.

- Date completed: ______________________

Step 5: Pick up your plants from your county Extension office or from the designated pick-up site. You will be contacted when it is time to pick up your plants.

- Date of delivery to you: ______________________

Step 6: Begin your Alabama 4-H Grows Project and Journal. To plant your plants, carefully remove the plants from the plant packets, dig a hole in the center of the container, and place the root in the hole. Then, carefully backfill with the soil. Water the plants and you should be ready to grow.

If the plants come in a peat pot, do not remove the pot before planting. Instead, remove the plastic label and then tear the pot along the sides. Plant the pot with plant in the container and water.

- Date you planted and started journal: __________

Step 7: Make an entry in the gardening journal every time you interact with your garden (watering, moving containers, or other activity). At minimum, you should be making at least two entries per week throughout the gardening project. When your garden is ready to be harvested, please make an entry in the Alabama 4-H Grows Harvest Journal. It is located behind the daily garden journal and in front of the weather charts. Harvesting may be a one-time event for many fall vegetables, but there are some vegetables that require periodic harvesting well into winter.

Step 8: Keep track of expenses using the Expense Page included in the journal. Also indicate on each journal page any expenses made during the project.

Complete the Alabama 4-H Grows Weather Charts throughout the project on a daily basis. This is important as weather factors, such as temperature and rainfall per day, all have an impact on the success of your garden.
Day 1: Planting the Plants

Date planted: __________________________

Time spent in garden: ______________________

What type of plants are you planting in your three containers?
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Weather Conditions
Make sure you record high/low temperature for today as well as any precipitation/water provided to the garden using weather charts. Use a local weather station to help you find this information.
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Air temperature: __________________________

Soil moisture (check one of the following):
Dig a small hole in the soil if needed to check the soil moisture.

_________Moisture visible at surface without moving soil.
_________No visible signs of moisture in top 2 inches of soil.
_________Signs of moisture visible at 3 inches or deeper.

Water your plants immediately after planting.

In the remaining space, tell us what you did and any observations you made while planting your garden. Take a photo and attach it to this page.

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Expenses: __________________________________
Garden Journal

Date of observation: ____________________________

Time spent in garden: _______________________

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If soil is lacking moisture, make sure you water the garden.

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Expenses:

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Garden Journal

Date of observation: _________________________

Time spent in garden: _______________________

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Expenses: __________________________________
Garden Journal

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Garden Journal

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Time spent in garden: ________________________

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Expenses: _________________________________

Alabama 4-H Grows Tier I Garden Journal
Garden Journal

Date of observation: ________________________

Time spent in garden: ______________________

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Use the area below to record observations of your three containers. Take a photo and attach it to this page.

Expenses:

Place Photo Here
Garden Journal

Date of observation: _________________________

Time spent in garden: _______________________

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Expenses:
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Alabama 4-H Grows Tier I Garden Journal
Garden Journal

Date of observation: ______________________

Time spent in garden: ______________________

Weather Conditions

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Expenses:

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Weather Charts: Temperature

Using two different colored pencils, record the high and low temperatures for each day on the graph below. Once you record the high and low temperatures, connect with a line all of the highs to one another and all of the lows to one another in sequence.

Example: Red Pencil—Daily High Temperature | Blue Pencil—Daily Low Temperature

Temperature Chart for the Month of ______________________.
Weather Charts: Temperature

Using two different colored pencils, record the high and low temperatures for each day on the graph below. Once you record the high and low temperatures, connect with a line all of the highs to one another and all of the lows to one another in sequence.

Example: Red Pencil—Daily High Temperature | Blue Pencil—Daily Low Temperature

Temperature Chart for the Month of _________________.

Degrees Fahrenheit

Date of the Month
Weather Charts: Temperature

Using two different colored pencils, record the high and low temperatures for each day on the graph below. Once you record the high and low temperatures, connect with a line all of the highs to one another and all of the lows to one another in sequence.

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Degrees Fahrenheit

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Temperature Chart for the Month of ________________.
Weather Charts: Temperature

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Example: Red Pencil—Daily High Temperature | Blue Pencil—Daily Low Temperature

Temperature Chart for the Month of _________________.

Degrees Fahrenheit

Date of the Month
Weather Charts: Precipitation

Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

Example: Red Pencil—Natural Rainfall | Blue Pencil—Other Water Source | Yellow Pencil—No water

Precipitation Chart for the Month of ________________.
Weather Charts: Precipitation

Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

Example: Red Pencil—Natural Rainfall | Blue Pencil—Other Water Source | Yellow Pencil—No water

Precipitation Chart for the Month of ______________________.
Weather Charts: Precipitation

Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

Example: Red Pencil—Natural Rainfall | Blue Pencil—Other Water Source | Yellow Pencil—No water

Precipitation Chart for the Month of _________________.

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Daily Rainfall in Inches

Date of the Month
Weather Charts: Precipitation

Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

Example: Red Pencil—Natural Rainfall | Blue Pencil—Other Water Source | Yellow Pencil—No water

Precipitation Chart for the Month of ________________.

Daily Rainfall in Inches

Date of the Month

Alabama 4-H Grows Tier I Garden Journal
Weather Charts: Precipitation

Using three different colored pencils, create a bar graph as a means to record the natural rainfall/precipitation your garden receives or when you water your garden using a hose or other source.

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Precipitation Chart for the Month of _________________.

Daily Rainfall in Inches

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<tr>
<th>Date of the Month</th>
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# Harvest Record

Record the type and amount of produce harvested. If you harvest from more than one of the containers on the same day, please make a separate entry for each container.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Harvested: ____________________</th>
<th>Date of Harvest: ________________</th>
<th>Time Spent: ________________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What did you harvest? ____________________</td>
<td>Weight of produce? ________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are you going to do with this harvest?
____________________________________________________________________________________

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?
____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any other comments or observations?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Harvested: ____________________</th>
<th>Date of Harvest: ________________</th>
<th>Time Spent: ________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>What did you harvest? ____________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What are you going to do with this harvest?
____________________________________________________________________________________

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?
____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any other comments or observations?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Harvest Record

Record the type and amount of produce harvested. If you harvest from more than one of the containers on the same day, please make a separate entry for each container.

**Container Harvested:** ________________  **Date of Harvest:** ________________  **Time Spent:** ____________

**What did you harvest?** ________________  **Weight of produce:** ____________

What are you going to do with this harvest?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any other comments or observations?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Container Harvested:** ________________  **Date of Harvest:** ________________  **Time Spent:** ____________

**What did you harvest?** ________________  **Weight of produce:** ____________

What are you going to do with this harvest?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

When do you think the plant will be ready for harvest again?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any other comments or observations?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Total Harvest Record

Refer back to your daily harvest record. Total the harvest from each container/variety of plant. Then, record the data below.

Type of plant in container 1: ______________  Total weight harvested: ______________

Type of plant in container 2: ______________  Total weight harvested: ______________

Type of plant in container 3: ______________  Total weight harvested: ______________

Looking back through your gardening journal and harvest record, how much time was spent in your garden?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

What did you learn from your gardening experience?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Expenses Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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