

## **4-H WILDFLOWER GUIDELINES**

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in the wildflower project. The purpose is to help youth learn about and improve their environment through an enjoyment and understanding of wildflowers. The guidelines are presently divided into two levels to go along with the available wildflower members' and leaders' guides. Wildflower study sheets and project bulletins are available from the MSU Extension office.

### **Learning Experiences For Wildflowers Project Book I** (suggested first through third year)

Become acquainted with at least 25 wildflowers and their habitats.

Learn how to identify plants and wildflowers.

Learn which wildflowers can and cannot be collected and which are protected by law.

Take wildflower walks in a variety of habitats and seasons. Learn how to keep a record of wildflowers seen and identified.

Learn how to make a wildflower collection and how to press wildflowers.

Learn how wildflowers become scarce and how to conserve them.

Learn to use wildflowers in arrangements.

### **Learning Experiences For Advanced Wildflowers Project Book II** (suggested fourth year and over)

Learn the type of habitat necessary for various wildflowers and plants.

Learn how and where wildflowers grow.

Learn how wildflowers reproduce and how they can be propagated.

Learn how to recognize and create wildflower habitats.

Learn what plants are used by humans and animals.

Learn how to draw wildflowers so as to identify them.

Successfully cultivate wildflowers.

## **4-H FAIR CLASSES FOR WILDFLOWERS**

If members want to exhibit at the fair, the classes for wildflowers are categorized into two levels, according to the project bulletins. It is suggested that Basic Wildflowers (Project Book I) cover members in their first through third year; and that Advanced Wildflowers (Project Book II) be used for members in the fourth year and over. If members have had prior experience, the leader may move them to the next level to best meet their needs; or he/she may keep a member longer in Basic Wildflowers until skills are learned. At the fair members need to be prepared to answer questions on what they learned.

### **General Information:**

1. An exhibit that does not meet the established criteria for a class will be dropped one grade.
2. Attach index card to exhibit tag if member is disabled or has reached his/her capability. Use card to briefly explain this.
3. An exhibitor must make a different exhibit each year.

## CLASSES

**\*Basic Wildflowers** (first-third year) - Exhibit wildflower study sheets, a wildflower bouquet, arrangement, display, or photographs.

- A. Exhibit a minimum of 20 wildflower study sheets (especially suggested for first year members).
- B. Make a wildflower arrangement. Identify the flowers in the bouquet and make a list of wildflowers that you found suitable and unsuitable for arrangements. Do not use wildflowers that should not be collected.
- C. Make a wildflower dry arrangement. Identify the wildflowers in the arrangement.
- D. Make a display of the list of wildflowers identified. The display should include the common name of the flowers, their family names, their scientific names (at least the genus name), the habitat in which you found them, the date you found them, and the approximate location where they were growing. The display should list the flowers by color, family, blooming season, or habitat.
- E. Make a display of wildflower photographs. Identify all the flowers in each photograph. Group the photographs by some category (e.g., color, family, blooming season, habitat).
- F. Make a display of your wildflower collection (at least 25). Each specimen should be completely labeled as described in your project. Do not use wildflowers that should not be collected.

**\*Advanced Wildflowers** (fourth year and over) - Exhibit collection, photographs, sketches, plants with roots, or a display of your garden or you obtained wildflowers for it, or display wildflowers that you have grown in a pot, or self-determined. See details below.

- A. Make a display of your wildflower collection. (At least 30) Each specimen should be completely labeled as described in your project. Do not use wildflowers that should not be collected.
- B. Make a display of wildflower photographs. Identify all the flowers in each photograph. Group the photographs by some category (e.g., color, family, blooming season, habitat).
- C. Do color sketches or drawings of 25 different wildflowers for identification purposes. By the sketch include identification of flower and description of habitat.
- D. Make a display of your wildflower garden. Use photographs and/or sketches to describe where and what you planted. Describe how and why you selected and prepared the site you used.
- E. Make a display showing how you obtained wildflowers for your garden. Display and/or describe several of the following: buying seeds, bulbs, roots, plants; propagating plants from leaves and stems; growing and transplanting seeds, bulbs, roots, plants, etc.
- F. Display wildflowers that you have grown in a pot. With each potted plant, describe how you met that plant's habitat requirements and where you will eventually transplant the wildflower.
- G. Exhibit 15 complete plants with roots.