

Fun With Flowers



4-H Cir. 175 4,66/5M
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
EXTENSION DIVISION

Fun With Flowers

FUN TO SHOW

It's fun to show flowers. Fresh flowers are so bright and gay and make us feel happy. We like to see them where they grow and we also like to have them in the house. In the picture above, Barbara is putting the finishing touch on a bouquet for the breakfast table. She chose a low bowl and placed the flowers so people seated at the table could see



over the top of the arrangement. She made it attractive from all sides so everyone could enjoy it. But there are some places where we see a flower arrangement from one side only. The one shown at left would be nice on a piece of furniture against the wall or on the mantle.

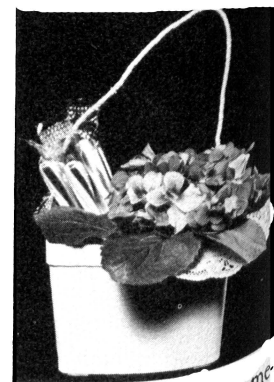
It would be fun to make a list of places in your home where flower arrangements would be used. Decide how they should be made. Should they be attractive from all sides or just one? How big should they be? How tall? What color? These are some things to think about. Flowers should look their best when they are brought into the house. If you pick a handful of Iris and jam them into a jelly glass, you are not being fair to them. But take these same flowers and arrange them so each blossom can be seen—just as Barbara did with the two arrangements of Iris. By using a plan or design you make the flowers appear at their best. They "show off" nicely!



There are other ways to show flowers. Let's think of some. Have you ever made May baskets? They aren't complete without flowers. You do know the story of May baskets—don't you? It is an old one and goes something like this. Everyone was so happy when spring finally arrived, they wanted to celebrate. So they went into the fields and gathered wild flowers. Then on the first day of May or the night before, they carried the baskets of flowers to their friends.

It became a custom. It is such a nice one we still keep it. The idea is to take the basket to a friend's home, hang it on the door knob, knock or ring the bell, then run and hide. It is all supposed to be a great big secret. But usually, you know who brings it! Do you do this in your neighborhood?

Barbara's basket has a little old fashioned ^{note-} gay or bunch of purple violets. She held the flowers and leaves together with a rubber band. She cut a hole in a paper doily and pushed the stems through the hole. Then she covered the stems with foil and the nosegay was finished. She added a few sticks of



candy and the basket was ready to hang on some one's door. Your club could have fun making May baskets. And the ones who get them would be so pleased and surprised!



KNOW

Daisy chains and clover ropes have been made by boys and girls for a long, long time. You wear them as you would a string of beads. You can make them—they are so easy. On the cover page you see Barbara and Rex making a daisy chain.

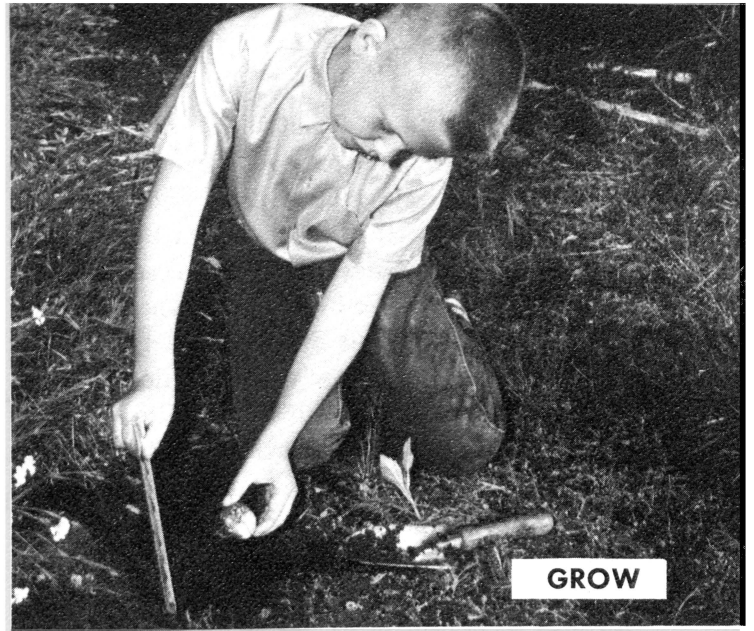
Flowers can say, "Thanks," when someone has been nice to you.

Gather a few choice blossoms. When carrying loose flowers out of water they are best protected in a plastic bag. The flowers and leaves must be covered. It is not enough just to wrap the stems with a damp cloth or cotton.



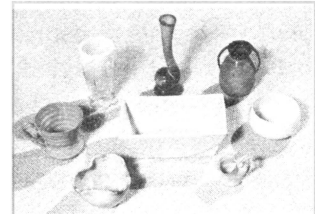
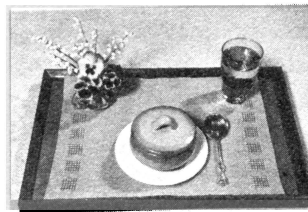
Before you start working with cut flowers, they need to be placed in water and given a good drink. This is called *conditioning*. It makes them last longer without wilting. Remove lower leaves, place in a deep bucket or can of warm water so the water comes up at least one-third the length of the stems. Place the bucket in the coolest possible place for about two hours. Now the flowers will be crisp and fresh when you arrange them or take them to your friends.

Small arrangements are fun and they can be used in many ways. Make one for a tray. This is nice for someone who is ill. Or, wouldn't Barbara's mother be pleased to have breakfast in bed on Mother's Day.



GROW

A small arrangement on a bedside table will make a guest feel at home. Or, surprise a favorite teacher by putting a small bouquet on her desk. These are just a few of the things you can do. Now you think of some.



You will want small things to put flowers in. Would you like to start a collection? Ask people to save small bottles, jars, and tin cans for you. You may want to paint some of these. Cut the tops off plastic bottles you'll find in the kitchen. Watch for interesting caps on bottles. Some of these are just right for tiny bouquets.

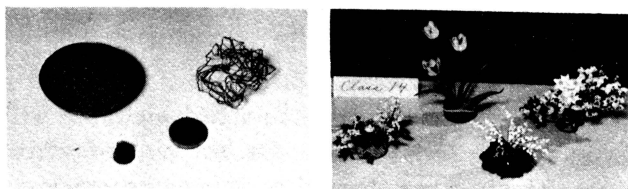
Putting on a flower show is one of the very best ways to please people. You'll have to decide on

—PROJECT REQUIREMENTS—

1. Show flowers at least six times—at home, for friends and at flower shows.
2. Know at least twelve flowers, shrubs or flowering trees.
3. Know at least six wild flowers.
4. Grow at least three kinds of flowers—from seeds or plants or cuttings or bulbs.
5. Carry out at least three activities—such as staging a club flower show—visiting gardens, greenhouses or flower shops —going on field trips to study wild flowers—making a flower notebook.

a place for your show. Then you'll want to set up classes just like a regular show. This will mean different kinds of arrangements. And don't forget to include classes for the "most perfect blossom" of rose or zinnia or whatever kind of flower you have. Doesn't this sound like fun? You'll want to practice on making arrangements many times before the day of the show. You can use these practice pieces to make your home look prettier.

Take part in other flower shows. Garden clubs often have classes for juniors. Four-H achievement days and county fairs offer other places to show your flowers.



Wouldn't you like to see what you can do? If you don't have flowers, use weeds or twigs from trees. Arrange or place them so each one shows. Start with a small container—this may be anything from the kitchen like a dish, pan, or tin can. Use some way of helping the flowers to stay where you put them. There are holders which you can buy or you can use things like chicken wire, coarse sand, or evergreen branches. You put the stems of the flowers down into the sand or evergreens to hold the stems.

The flowers you arrange can be as lovely as a picture an artist paints, but you must know the same rules of art that he does. First we must have *design*. This means placing flowers with a definite plan in mind. Second, we need *balance* because you don't want your arrangement to look as if it might tip over. If you have large flowers and small ones, put the large ones nearer the center with the small ones toward the outside. Also, you can imagine how out of place little flowers would look with big flowers towering over them in a vase. So remember to place the large flowers at the bottom and the smaller ones at the top and sides. There is another way, too, to think about balance. Dark colors look heavier than light colors. So, for balance, put the darker flowers toward the center of the arrangement.

Third, we must have proper *proportion*. To get this, choose a container, a vase or a bowl, of the right size for your flowers. Cut the longest stem so



that it will be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the height of the vase. Hold the stem beside the vase as shown in the picture. If you are using a flat bowl, the tallest flower is cut about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the width of the bowl.

Fourth, we must consider *color*. We combine colors in flowers just as in other things. If a girl is wearing a pink dress and she has either a blue or orange ribbon to wear with it, she will probably choose the blue one. In the same way, she would put pink petunias with blue bachelor buttons rather than with orange marigolds.

If a boy has a brown bedspread in his room, and his mother asks him if he would rather have a yellow pillow or a purple one, he will likely choose the yellow one. He knows that yellow will be brighter and prettier with the brown than the purple. In the same way, yellow sunflowers look better in a brown bean pot than purple Iris do.

Green and blue are cool colors. Red, orange, and yellow are warm. Cool colors are restful. Warm colors are cheerful and gay. On a cool cloudy day, wouldn't an arrangement of pink tulips make you feel cheerful in spite of the weather?

Fifth, there must be *harmony*. The arrangement should please your eyes, just as harmony in music pleases your ears. If more than one color is used, they should look well together. They should look nice with the container, too, and the container should be suitable for the flowers. Try some dainty flower like lily-of-the-valley in a large brown pottery jar. It was lost, wasn't it? Now try it in a small glass container. It is just right. It would be fun to imagine what kinds of containers you would like for different kinds of flowers. Your 4-H group could make a game of this.

Try to remember, then, as you make your flower arrangements to give each one five things: design, balance, proportion, color, and harmony. Then every arrangement you make will please your eyes.

Try identifying flowers, pages 5-7. Correct names on back cover. (No fair peeking.)

FUN TO KNOW

It's fun to know the names of flowers. Some names tell what a flower looks like. For instance, bleeding-heart is pink and shaped like a heart. The Jack-in-the-pulpit looks just like a little man standing in a pulpit ready to preach a sermon. You know some flowers—but how are you going to learn more? Books with pictures may be one of the best ways. Seed and nursery catalogs are good. See Barbara and Rex, page 3, using a seed catalog to find the name of this interesting flower. It turned out to be chives. But one of the very best ways is to have a real gardener tell you



about things. You can ask questions if there is something you don't understand.

You will want to know more about some flowers than just the name. For those you like real well, you will want to answer these questions: When do they bloom? How tall are they? What kind of soil do they like? Do they grow best in the sun or shade?

Why not write a little story about each flower? You could call this your "Flower Notebook." Pictures will help you and will make your notebook attractive, too. Draw your own or get them from catalogs or magazines.

How many of the flowers pictured do you know? (The names are given on the back page. No fair peeking!) You're going to learn at least twelve new ones. It is easy to find the

flowers in books or catalogs but try to see the real ones if possible. Keep your eyes open as you take walks or drives. Visit gardens, greenhouses, and flower shops. Most people are very happy to show you around and tell you about things if you are careful to protect their property. The following list may help you to get started. Remember you are to learn 12 new ones.

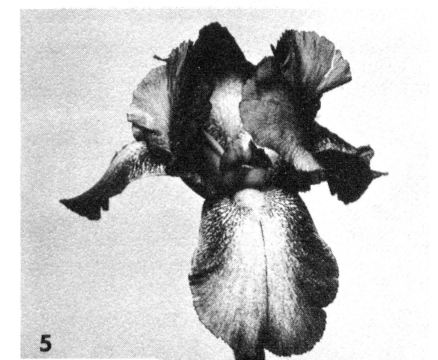
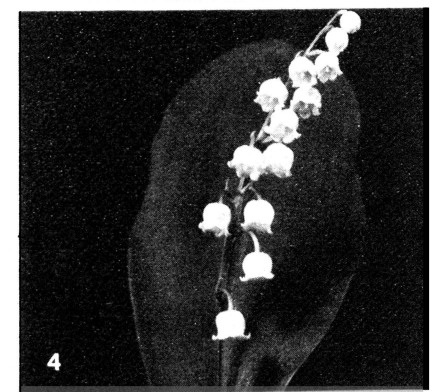
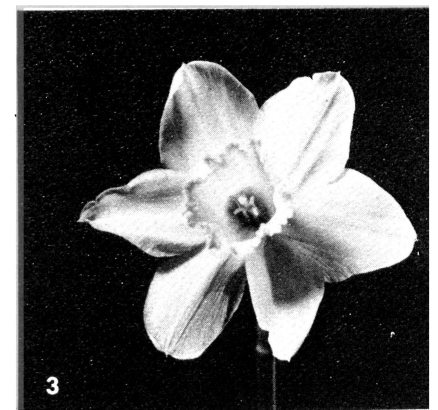
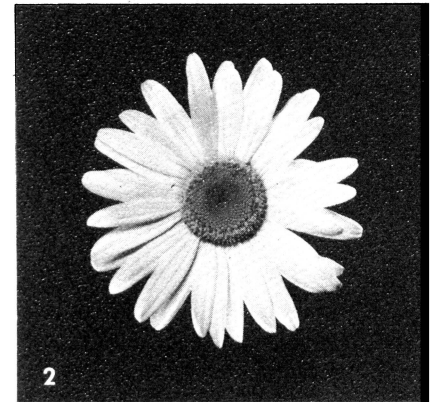
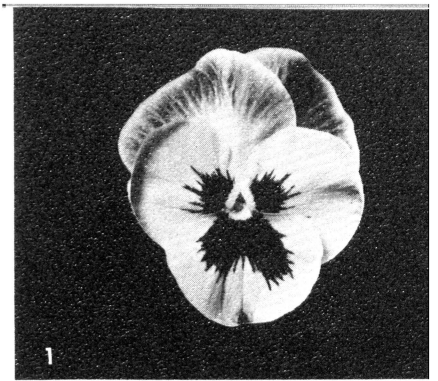
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Lily-of-the-valley | Dahlias |
| Daffodils | Cosmos |
| Hollyhocks | Lilac |
| Shasta daisy | Dogwood |
| Chrysanthemums | Tulips |
| Columbine | Peony |
| Forsythia | Roses |
| Pussy willow | Petunias |
| Iris | Pansy |
| Gladiolus | Poppy |
| Zinnias | Mock orange |
| Marigolds | Tulip tree |

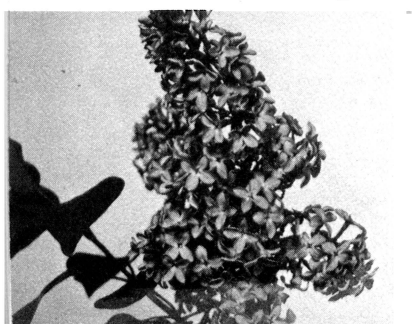
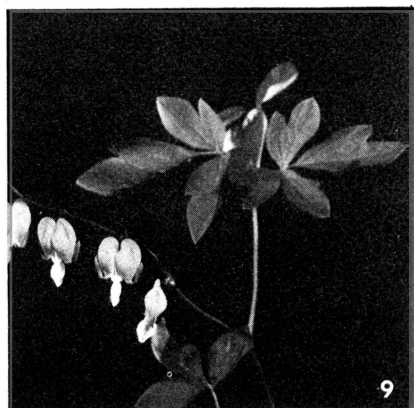
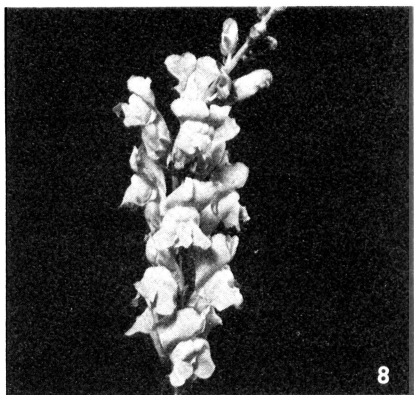
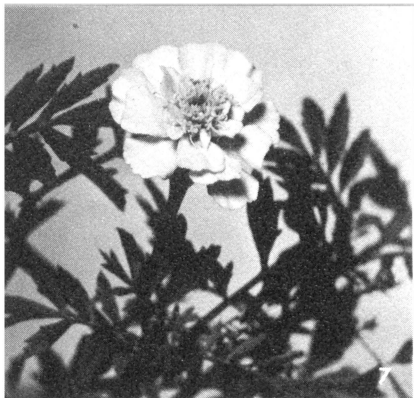
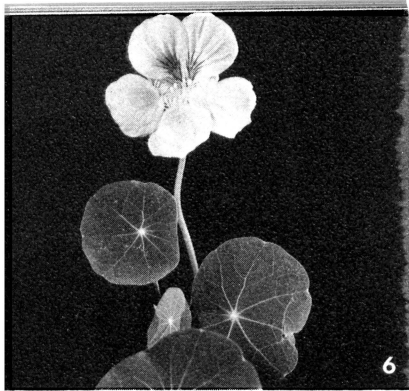
How many wild flowers do you know? Just for fun, make a list. What is at the top of your list? Violets head most lists. But did you know there are many different kinds of violets? And this is true of many wild flowers. So you have happy hours ahead of you as you learn more about wild flowers.

You'll want to go on wild flower hikes or mark a nature trail. Seeing the flowers growing is half the fun. So carry a notebook and pencil to write down what you see. Make some notes about where they grow. Are they in sun or shade? Is the soil moist, dry or in between? Is it soil they are growing in or just rotted leaves?

If you have a pocket magnifying glass, take it along. Some of the tiny flowers are very beautiful when enlarged—for example, Queen Anne's lace. The large, flat blossom is made up of many tiny flowers. Someone in your group should carry a wild flower book to help you with the names.*

(*Wild Flowers of Missouri, Theresa C. Rickett, Missouri Handbook No. 3, second edition.)





All set for a wild flower hunt

There are so many you will want to know, but here are some you will likely find when you go on your field trip.

Spring Beauty. This early spring flower has dainty blossoms. The plant grows from about six to ten inches tall with small, grass-like leaves. The flowers have five white or pale pink petals with darker pink veins.

Wild Columbine. This plant grows one to two feet tall. The leaves are cut into three or more parts. It has a red flower with a yellow face. The flower has five petals. Underneath, these petals are shaped like tiny ice cream cones. The blossom is a favorite of the bumblebee and the hummingbird.

May Apple. The large umbrella-shaped leaves of the May Apple make it easy to find. Underneath them is a white flower. The plant grows one or two feet tall and its coarse leaves are deeply cut. Each blossom has six to nine petals and twice as many stamens. It is one or more inches across and has a sweet odor, but it is almost hidden under the broad leaf.

Dutchman's Breeches. The funny name really describes the flowers. They hang like rows of baggy breeches. There usually are from four to eight white blossoms on each flower stem. The whole plant is dainty. The leaves are very fine.

Butterfly Weed. This is one flower you will want to see under a magnifying glass. Each tiny flower in the

orange-red flower head is shaped like an hour glass. The plant is a foot or more tall. Look for the Butterfly Weed from June to September. You'll likely see a butterfly near it.

Black-eyed Susan. Sometimes called the yellow daisy or Brown-eyed Susan, this flower is one of the most common and best loved wild flowers. Each flower has twenty or more orange-yellow petals. The centers are dark brown.

Shooting Star. It does look like a comet streaking across the sky. The tall flower stem has a cluster of delicate blossoms. Each blossom has five petals that turn backward, and the flower appears to be upside down. The flowers are pale pink or reddish-purple. They are about an inch long. The plant grows from eight inches to two feet tall.

Hawthorn. This is Missouri's state flower. The thorny shrub or small tree is covered with flowers in late April. Each blossom has five white petals and a beautiful yellow center. These blossoms are found growing together in little bunches.

Flowering Dogwood. The flowers of Missouri's state tree come out about the first of May. Four large, white, flower-like petals called bracts surround a cluster of tiny yellow balls. In the fall, the tree has bright red berries.

Violets, buttercups, spring beauties, clover and verbenas are just a few of the wild flowers that are easy

to find. It won't hurt to pick these and some others if you do it carefully. Some plants such as Queen Anne's lace and henbit are weeds. People will like to have you pull these out by the roots.

But there are some flowers you should not pick. Plants which grow in some unusual place should be left alone. Many people destroy dogwood, redbud, and wild crab by breaking them from trees. Branches of these flowering trees take many years to

FUN TO GROW

It's fun to grow flowers! You can start from seeds, plants, cuttings, or bulbs. No doubt your club will decide on some kinds of flowers that all of you will grow at your own homes. This means your leader can show you how to plant and care for them. Also, you may want to plant one or more that the other members are not growing. Your leader, someone in your family, or a good gardener friend will help you make your choice and get started. You can't possibly grow everything you like and want—so plant only the things you can care for properly.

First you and your parents must decide where you will plant your flowers. You may have a spot in the garden or the yard. You may have a flower box or flower pot. Where you plant them may make a difference in your choice of flowers. All growing things need light, water, and food. But some need more sun than others. Some need more water. Some can live

grow. And rare flowers should not be picked at all. The beautiful lady slipper has gone altogether from some places where it used to be found. If you find a flower you have never seen before, don't pick it. Picking a flower robs the plant of its chance to reproduce by seed.

Why not adopt the wild flower slogan—

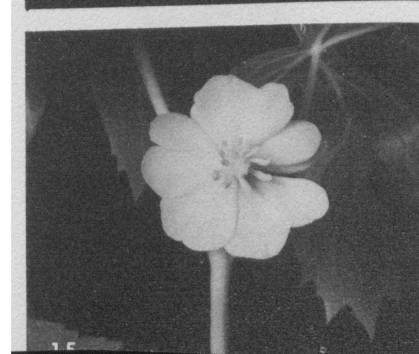
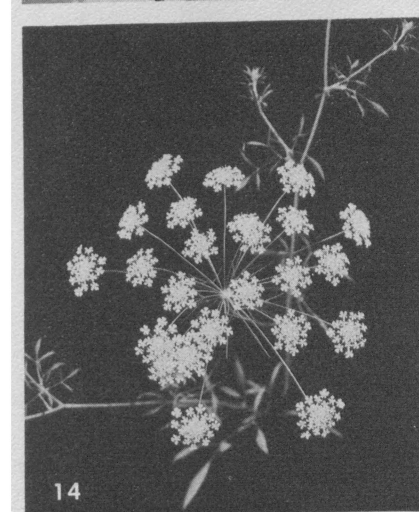
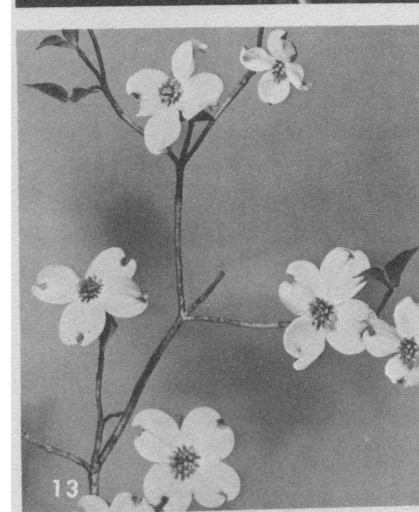
*"LEARN, LOVE and LEAVE Wild
Flowers for others to enjoy."*

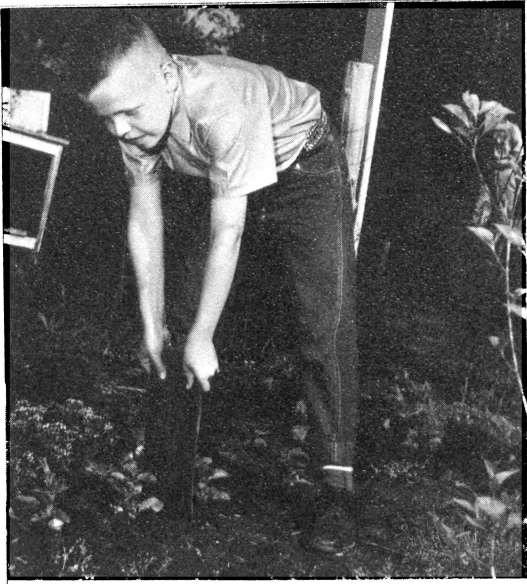


on less food which means they can live in poor soil. These are things you'll talk about at your club meetings. They will help you choose which flowers to grow.

Next you will need to prepare a seed bed or a place for your flowers. If your spot is in the garden or yard, pick up all trash and get ready for spading. If tools are too heavy for you, ask for some help. You usually spade or plow eight to twelve inches deep. Rake until you have a fine, level seed bed.

If you are planting seeds, do what it says on the package. It will tell you how deep and how far apart to plant the seeds. This is important. If you are using plants or cuttings, look for directions in catalogs. Or better still, ask someone who has grown them to tell you how to plant them. They no doubt will tell you to transplant on a cloudy day or in the evening. They will say to keep as much soil on the plants as possible.





Rex adds protection for his petunia plants.



You can see the roots growing right through this fiber pot.



Barbara finds these tools just right for flowers.



Do you know about pots you can plant? They are usually made of peat and wood fiber. You start seeds, plants, or cuttings in them. The roots may even come through the pot as you see in the picture. But you just plant pot and all. Press the soil tightly around the plant. Water it thoroughly. Protect it from the hot sun by shading it with a box, newspaper, or shingle.

Some flowers come from *tubers*, *corms*, and *bulbs*. Your leader can describe these for you. If you are planting *tubers* of dahlias or *corms* of gladiolus, or *bulbs* of tulips or lilies, be sure to plant them at the proper depth. Rex is using a ruler to see that his "glads" are six inches deep. (See

page 3) The soil is light and sandy. If it were a heavy clay soil, four inches deep would be better. So you see it is difficult to give exact instructions. Depend on your gardener friend to help you.

If your plants are to do well, you must keep down the weeds. Pull them or kill them as you hoe. If you do this often, it isn't difficult. You may need to loosen the soil around the plants by hoeing or raking. Your leader will show you how to do this. And if mother nature doesn't send rain, you'll have to water your plants.

All of this can be fun. But the most pleasant part of growing your own flowers comes when you can share them with others.

IDENTIFICATION OF FLOWERS PICTURED

1. Pansy—many colors—this one yellow with brown markings.
2. Daisy—usually white with yellow center.
3. Daffodil—yellow or white.
4. Lily-of-the-Valley—white.
5. Iris—many colors—this one was blue.
6. Nasturtium—yellow or orange with green leaf.
7. Marigold—yellow or orange or combinations of these colors.
8. Snap-dragon—many colors.
9. Bleeding-heart—pink.
10. Lilac—usually blue, or purple or white.
11. Violets—blue-white and sometime red.
12. Spring Beauties—white with pink veins.
13. Dogwood—white petal like bracts around a green center.
14. Queen Anne's Lace—white.
15. May Apple—white with yellow stamens.



Fun With Flowers

Record Blank



Name _____ Address _____

Age _____ Club _____

Years Enrolled in Home Grounds _____ Leader _____

Parents Name _____

My Participation:

Club meetings attended during year _____. Project meetings held _____. Project meetings attended _____.

Number of demonstrations given at: project meetings _____, community club meetings _____, county meetings _____, district meetings _____, and state meetings _____.

Number of times participated in judging work in: project meetings _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Number of exhibits made in: community _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Participated In:

County Achievement Day _____, District Achievement Day _____, State Achievement Day _____, national contests _____, county fair or show _____, district fair _____, State Fair _____, Interstate Show _____, marketing days _____, county camp _____, district camp _____, State Club Week _____, National Club Congress or National 4-H Conference _____.

Number of news stories published _____. Number of radio and T.V. programs participated in _____. Number of speeches made _____.

Served on _____ standing committee in club.

--PROJECT REQUIREMENTS--

If you enroll in this project, your club leader will expect you to complete the following:

1. Show flowers at least six times--at home, for friends and at flower shows.
2. Know at least twelve flowers, shrubs or flowering trees.
3. Know at least six wild flowers.
4. Grow at least three kinds of flowers--from seeds or plants or cuttings or bulbs.
5. Carry out at least three activities--such as staging a club flower show--visiting gardens, greenhouses or flower shops--going on field trips to study wild flowers--making a flower notebook.

I certify that _____ has met the requirement of this 4-H project as outlined.
Member's Name

Signed _____
Project Leader

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. I showed flowers:

| | <u>To whom</u> | <u>How</u> | <u>For</u> |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| (Example) | My family | Arrangement | Breakfast table |
| | School mates | Nosegays | May Baskets |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |

(Need extra space? Attach sheet or use last page)

2. I know these flowers:

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

3. I know these wild flowers:

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. I planted and cared for:

| Name of Flower | Date Planted | Date I had first bloom |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| (Example) Gladiolus | April 10 | July 1 |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. I gave _____ demonstrations.

| Title of demonstration | For whom given | Where |
|------------------------|----------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

6. I exhibited _____ times.

| What | Where | Rating |
|-------|-------|--------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

7. Activities completed:

In this short story I'll tell you more about some of the things we did--the things I enjoyed most--and the things that seemed to bring the most pleasure to others.

STORY

Hasn't this project been interesting? Ask your leader about others in this series. Happy gardening!

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. C. B. Ratchford, Vice-President for Extension, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65201.