# 4-H Home Grounds Improvement Work Book

Name of Member ..... Age ..... County ..... Year

Address .....

Name of parent .....

Name of 4-H Club .....

Years in club work ..... Years in this project .....

Work covered in this record:

Flower Growing: Unit I ..... II ..... III .....

Landscaping: Unit I ..... II ..... III .....

Special interest (explain) .....

Name of adult 4-H leader .....

Address .....

THE CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:
My Head to clearer thinking;
My Heart to greater loyalty;
My Hands to larger service; and
My Health to better living for
My Club, my Community, and my Country.

THE CLUB MOTTO:

"To Make the Best Better."

I have checked this record and found it to be satisfactory.

.....

(Signature of Extension Agent)

Congratulations to you for choosing Home Grounds Beautification as a 4-H project. The completion of this project will not only improve the appearance of your home and surroundings, but will help you to develop certain skills and obtain a knowledge of plants and their artistic use. The best of luck to you — don't stop until the project is completed and your record book is turned in to your Adult Leader or Extension Agent.

**Flower growing projects** will consist of starting and planting flowers for the home grounds and also for cut flower use in the home.

**Landscaping projects** will help you improve the appearance of your outdoor plantings and tie the house with its surroundings.

**Special interest projects** can also be selected after completion of other required projects mentioned above. These projects will include production of ornamentals for commercial use to derive a source of income. These projects may also be selected if facilities are not available for flower growing and landscaping projects.

SUGGESTED ORDER BY WHICH HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT

I. **Clean Up.**

Remove any trash, old flower beds and other unsightly materials. Prune shrubs and trees. Repair fences and buildings.

Remove any stumps, fallen trees, signs, old fences and shacks or any other things that may cause an unsightly appearance of the property.

II. **Repair and paint the house, fences, and other buildings that show up from the front.**

Continue repair and painting of house, building and fences as needed throughout project.

III. **Make a plan for the home grounds.**

Draw the plan to scale on paper so all buildings, walks, drives, roads, fences, plantings and other units on the grounds can be seen in relation to one another.

IV. **Check previous work and complete any items that have not been carried out to date.**

Study plan at least once a year for any changes that appear to be needed, based on your experience to date.

V. **Build walks and drives.**

Walks and drives should usually be straight and edged with some material to give them a definite line rather than to let the grass grow irregularly along the edge.

VI. **Start the lawn.**

The lawn is one of the most important landscape features and should be started early. Start the front lawn first if the entire lawn cannot be planted at one time. Your County Agent will give you lawn bulletins and leaflets for information on grasses and methods of starting the lawn.

VII. **Plant trees.**

Trees are important landscape features for shade and other uses. They should be started early in the development of the home grounds and should be planted in a location to form a foreground and background for the house, provide shade and provide an interest feature on the the grounds.

VIII. **Start propagating plants.**

Propagate first those plants that will be needed for the base (foundation) plantings around the house, screen plantings to screen out unsightly areas, separate yards, etc. Many slow-growing plants will usually be needed.

IX. **Start shrub plantings.**

Put in the most important entrance plants and corner plants of base or foundation plants first and then the screen plantings or objects most needed to give privacy and screen out unsightly areas.

X. **Complete shrub and tree plantings.**

Continue making border and special plantings such as flowers, camellias, azaleas, crotons, etc. It is usually best to use these in special areas or garden-like plantings.

XI. **Start maintenance program of fertilization, pruning, mulching and spraying of ornamental plants as needed.**

XII. **Plan and plant flower gardens.**

Start flower gardens as a special interest feature of the grounds and to furnish flowers for use in the home. They should be located as special interest features along views from the important windows or rooms of the house.

XIII. **Addition of special features.**

Build a pool, a barbecue pit, patio, sitting area and other features that will increase the usefulness and beauty of the grounds.

XIV. **Suggested special projects.**

A. Foliage plant production.

B. Nursery stock production.

C. Cut flower production.

D. Lawn grass production.

E. Landscape designing.

F. Landscape maintenance.

**Much of the material in this record book is based on material contained in a Northeast cooperative 4-H Club publication by the Agricultural Extension Services of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.**

## Home Grounds Checklist

With your parents or 4-H leader, look at your home grounds and check yes or no on the following:

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Do you see ?** | | |
| Trash in view from road or highway | ..... | ..... |
| Unsightly signs on your property | ..... | ..... |
| Stumps, tires, etc., in front yard | ..... | ..... |
| Machinery in your yard | ..... | ..... |
| Clothes lines in view from road | ..... | ..... |
| Clutter in garage visible from road | ..... | ..... |
| **2. Are repairs or painting needed for ?** | | |
| Home | ..... | ..... |
| Lawn furniture | ..... | ..... |
| Play equipment | ..... | ..... |
| Outbuildings | ..... | ..... |
| Mail box | ..... | ..... |
| Fences | ..... | ..... |
| **3. Have you drawn a definite plan for developing the grounds?** | ..... | ..... |
| **4. Do you see a need for?** | | |
| Underpinning for house | ..... | ..... |
| Relocating trash can or pile | ..... | ..... |
| Building walks and drives | ..... | ..... |
| Making walks and drives neat and more serviceable | ..... | ..... |
| Grading and smoothing yard | ..... | ..... |
| Changing walks and drives to another location to make yard more attractive | ..... | ..... |
| **5. Do you need to plant ?** | | |
| More suitable shrubs around foundation of house | ..... | ..... |
| Trees, shrubs or vines to screen unattractive views | ..... | ..... |
| Grass in the yard | ..... | ..... |
| More shade trees, vines or ground covers to prevent erosion | ..... | ..... |
| Shrubs, trees and flowers along property line | ..... | ..... |
| **6. Do you need to ?** | | |
| Remove overgrown shrubs from near house | ..... | ..... |
| Build outdoor fireplace | ..... | ..... |
| Fertilize shrubs and flowers | ..... | ..... |
| Spray trees, shrubs and flowers | ..... | ..... |
| Move shrubs and flowers that are scattered all over the lawn | ..... | ..... |
| Fertilize lawn more often | ..... | ..... |
| Prune shrubs | ..... | ..... |
| Install equipment for games or recreation | ..... | ..... |
| **7. Do you need to begin to propagate or root ?** | | |
| Shrubs | ..... | ..... |
| Trees | ..... | ..... |
| Flowers | ..... | ..... |

## Improvements Needed

After studying my home ground improvement plan and reviewing work I have already completed, I have selected the following for this year:

| Improvements I Need to Make | Date Work To Be Done | What I Have Done This Year |
|---|---|---|
| Example:<br>1. Repair or replace broken step at back porch entrance of house. | April | Example:<br>1. Replaced broken step and painted back porch steps. |
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## Cost Record

Include estimated or sales value of grass sod, vines, shrubs and trees propagated, grown or collected from woods and used by 4-H member. If native plants are to be collected, check the conservation laws to make sure that plant can lawfully be dug and sold.

This record should include costs of fertilizer, tools, and other items required to carry out this project. Remember to list labor cost also.

| No. of Plants or Square Footage of Grass Produced | Estimated Value Each | Total |
|---|---|---|
| | $ | $ |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Value (estimated) | | $ |

Cost of Production

| | |
|---|---|
| Fertilizer, lime, peat | $ |
| Tools | |
| Seeds | |
| Grass | |
| Vines | |
| Shrubs | |
| Trees | |
| Pots, cans, etc. | |
| Labor (own time) | |
| Others | |
| Total Cost | $ |

Net income from project (subtract total cost from total value) _____

Sales of products — to whom, retail or wholesale?

## Story of 4-H Club Project

Tell your reasons for selecting a home grounds beautification project, help received from other members of your family, work you did, pleasant experiences, difficulties in carrying out projects and new skills you learned.

# Picture of Project

Before

After

April 1962

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
(Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914)
Agricultural Extension Service, University of Florida, Florida State University
and United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating,
M. O. Watkins, Director