# MINNESOTA 4-H PROJECT EVALUATION
## VEGETABLE GARDENING
### 4-Her Name: ____________________________________________ Grade: ___________
### County or Club:  _____________________ Years in 4-H: ________ Years in Project: ____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purple</th>
<th>Blue</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
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**Comments:**
- Strengths/accomplishments
- Skills learned
- Areas to work on
- Possible new challenges
- Questions to think about

## Learning Involved:
- Understands site and garden layout plan, possibly including crop rotation, row or block planting, container planting, raised bed gardens, sun/shade conditions, taller plants north of shorter plants, etc.
- Indicates appropriate knowledge of: soil preparation, major fertility factors, soil pH, seeds, varieties, diseases, weeds, insects, pesticides, environmental disorders, plant care, harvesting and storage, basic nutrition of vegetables, cleanup, tool care and maintenance, basic plant anatomy and physiology, problem solving, and where to find information.
- What work was performed by the exhibitor in the garden? Who else helped?

### 50% of Score

## Workmanship & Techniques of Project:
- Vegetable display is attractive.
- Vegetables are:
  - uniform in size, shape, color, and maturity
  - correct number for type (small = 12, medium = 3, large = 1 is suggested)
  - properly trimmed and cleaned
  - good quality, at proper stage of maturity
  - relatively free of insect damage, disease and defects
  - true to variety as labeled
- Vegetable display is balanced for type (small, medium, large)
- Vegetable display is balanced nutritionally.
- Vegetable display is labeled with exhibitor’s name, county, each kind of vegetable, and variety names.
- Posters, two- or three-sided displays, models, diagrams, booklets, etc. are attractively put together using design elements/art principles and quality materials. Information is accurate, complete, and clearly communicated

### 50% of Score

## General Appearance and Design:
- The exhibit attracts and holds attention of the people who see it.
- The exhibit is neat and attractive in appearance.
- If an educational display is included, it should be well designed, attractive and readable so that it communicates an idea to the people who view it.
Rules
- Use a 3x5 inch card to show the variety name of each kind of vegetable in the exhibit and the exhibitor’s name and county
- All specimens in the exhibit should be typical of the varieties shown on the exhibit card
- Do not mix varieties within the exhibit
- The size of three-dimensional displays and posters should be consistent with the size recommended by Minnesota 4-H
- Exhibits are not limited to three-dimensional displays or posters; they may be actual models, games, or technology-related exhibits, etc.
- Resources should be credited and documented in the exhibit (e.g., books, internet, 4-H or Extension publications, person with special knowledge, magazine articles, etc.).

Guidelines
- Exhibit may include vegetable displays, posters, two- or three-sided tabletop displays, models, diagrams, booklets, etc. Exhibit should show or explain something the 4-H'er grew, made, did, or learned in the Vegetable Gardening Project.
- Exhibit the proper number of specimens for each kind of vegetable
- In 4-H garden collections show only one variety of each kind of vegetable
- If the exhibit is vegetables, this is a recommended collection of six different kinds of vegetables choosing any combination of the following:
  A. One specimen large vegetable (cabbage, squash, melon, pumpkin, cauliflower, etc.).
  B. Three specimens medium size vegetables (tomatoes, onions, peppers, cucumbers, kohlrabi, carrots, beets, turnips, etc.).
  C. And/or 12 specimens small size vegetables (green beans, peas, lima beans, etc.).
  D. Potatoes or cherry tomatoes may not be included.
- Some 4-H curriculum may vary slightly with these numbers.

Uniformity
- Specimens should be uniform in every respect, especially in size, shape, color, and maturity
  1. Size - Consider the variety. Not small or oversize, Consider market demand
  2. Shape - Must be typical for variety
  3. Color - Must be typical for variety. Must be bright and uniform. Don't shine or wax
  4. Maturity
    a. All specimens of one variety should be at the same stage of maturity
    b. Variations in uniformity
      o Excellent – Uniform - Not over 10% variation in size, shape, color or maturity
      o Good - Fairly uniform - Not over 25% variation in size, shape, color or maturity
      o Fair - Not uniform - Not over 50% variation in size, shape, color or maturity
      o Poor - Extreme difference - Over 50% variation in size, shape, color, or maturity

Proper trimming or grooming
- Specimens should be clean. Wash root crops - don't scrub. Wash leafy crops under running water carefully. Wipe some vegetables with a damp cloth (Eggplant, Tomatoes, Summer Squash). Clean other vegetables with a soft bristled brush (Cucumbers, Onions, Cauliflower)
- Trim tops and taproot of root vegetables
- Leave wrapper leaves on cabbage, inner husks on corn, and scales on onions
- Remove stems from tomatoes and muskmelons
- Leave stems on all other vegetables
- Exhibit swiss chard and celery as one plant

Quality
- Vegetable should be at right stage of maturity for good eating
  - Most vegetables reach highest quality when young and immature. The right time to harvest is sometimes determined by:
    1. Size (zucchini, 6-8 inches long); Color (eggplant, dark purple); Texture (beets, firm, smooth, not woody)
    2. Some vegetables should be fully mature (melons, pumpkins, winter squash)
- Select vegetables that have a longer shelf life for show
  - Should be firm and not break down or wilt quickly
  - Some lose quality quickly such as leafy greens, sweet corn, and broccoli
  - Should not be overripe, shriveled or wilted
  - Specimens are judged on the basis of appearance at time of judging

Freedom from insects, diseases or defects
- No insects should be present on specimens. Avoid showing insect-damaged specimens
- Care should be taken in handling specimens to avoid mechanical injury
- Do not wrap specimens in transparent films to maintain quality - No specimens should be exhibited in water.
- A collection should have balanced nutritive value as well as eye appeal
  a. Red - tomato (Vitamin C and A)
  b. Green - cabbage, beans, green peppers (Vitamin C, minerals, protein)
  c. Yellow - carrots, winter squash (Vitamin A, carbohydrates)

Revised April 2010-Logo Updated July 2012

Project Ideas: Topics may be related to (but not limited to) such areas as garden plans, soils, fertility, seeds, varieties, plant science (anatomy and physiology), pests, nutrition, crossbreeding & hybrids, genetics, All America Selections, etc.