

2022 Special Garden Project Rubenza Cosmo

This project is open to all youth of 4-H age and it will give them the opportunity to learn about growing, harvesting, and exhibiting this unique flower.



** Photo courtesy of Johnny's Select Seeds*

The Special Gardening Project lets 4-H members try their hand at growing unusual vegetables and flowers. The project allows experienced 4-H gardeners to grow something fun, new, and different while letting those new to gardening get their feet wet in this project area.

The focus of the 2022 project is the Rubenza Cosmos. The flowers of the Rubenza are unique, the petals change color as they age. Pollinators and beneficial insects are attracted to the blooms all summer long. These cosmos make great cut flowers. Be sure to enjoy a bouquet of Rubenza indoors.

4-H members enrolled in the Special Garden Project will:

- Receive a 'packet' of Rubenza Cosmos (one packet per youth) in March/April
- Receive a newsletter about:
 - Planting & growing cosmos
 - Cosmos problems & insects
 - Harvesting & using cosmos
- Be able to exhibit this unique flower at County and State Fair
 - State Fair Special Garden Project Educational Exhibit Class G-775-001
 - State Fair Special Garden Project Fresh Cut Flowers or Harvested Vegetables G-775-002
 - Other fun county only ways to exhibit this unique flower like a story, poem, or poster. Each county is different so be sure to check with your local Extension Office.
- Complete an evaluation about their growing experience: <https://go.unl.edu/2022cosmoeval>

Enroll for the 2022 Special Garden Project through 4-H Online and contact your local Nebraska Extension Office to order packets of seeds. The local Extension Office will order and distribute the seeds. Contact Elizabeth Exstrom at elizabeth.exstrom@unl.edu or 308-385-5088.

*Rubenza cosmos photo courtesy of Johnny's Select Seeds, Johnnyseeds.com, 1-877-564-6697.