

DEPARTMENT G - PLANT SCIENCE

HORTICULTURE

Annabel Slimm Memorial Award – For Excellence in Horticulture

Annabel Slimm was a part of the Sarpy County Extension Office staff for over 25 years. In her honor, a fund has been established to provide this award to a Douglas-Sarpy 4-H member who demonstrates excellence in horticulture based on the quality and quantity of their exhibits. During the 4-H Celebration in the fall, the award winner will be presented with a plaque.

The purpose of Horticulture is to encourage participants to start and maintain vegetable gardens. In addition, 4-H'ers can participate in planting, growing, and caring for flowers. There is also a special gardening project in this category that 4-H'ers can participate in. For more resources and materials in this category refer to the resource section at the bottom of the page.

Rules:

- Entries must be the work of the 4-H member.
- **The cultivar or variety name must be included on all entry cards.** If potted container with several cultivar or varieties identify each individually within the pot. Failure to identify the cultivar or variety will drop the entry one ribbon placing. Proper identification is the responsibility of the exhibitor not the Extension staff or office personnel. For Floriculture, punch hole in the top center of entry tag, use a rubber band to securely attach entry tag to containers.
- Exhibits entered under an incorrect class number or containing an incorrect number of stems will be dropped one ribbon placing.
- In classes 23, 45 & 46, do not duplicate entries from the already listed classes, or entry will be dropped one ribbon placing. For example: 4-H'ers with two cultivars or varieties of marigolds can only enter the marigold class and cannot enter the other cultivar or variety in any other class.
- A perennial is defined as a plant of which the crown overwinters. An annual is a plant that grows from seed each season, whether self-seeded or planted by the gardener. A biennial is a plant that germinates, grows and overwinters as a crown, blooms the following year and dies. Foliage will be considered when exhibit is judged.
- All 3 or 5 stems of cut flowers should be the same cultivar and color, do not mix cultivars and colors. Containers holding the flowers will not be judged; however, they should be CLEAR GLASS CONTAINERS of a neutral color that won't tip over and of adequate size to display blooms. Any exhibit not in a clear glass container will be dropped one ribbon placing. Containers should be picked up by the exhibitor when the fair closes. Containers may not be returned from State Fair.

- Follow the guidelines in 4-H Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibits 4H227 (revised 2016) (<https://unl.box.com/s/2f3a785c67p7ghqasevp6gu6adf3ugon>) when preparing entries for the fair.
- Follow the guidelines in Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits for Exhibit 4H226 (revised June 2013) (<http://4h.unl.edu/4hcurriculum/preparingvegetabeshersandfruit>) when preparing entries for the fair. At State Fair, plates will be provided for the exhibitor.
- NebGuide G2205 [“Guide to Growing Houseplants”](#)
- NebGuide G837 [“Guide to Selecting Houseplants”](#)
- No canned, frozen or preserved vegetables or fruit entered in this Department. Canned goods are to be entered in the Foods, Nutrition & Food Preservation area.
- Interview judging will be on entry day, Tuesday, August 2nd from 12:00-7:00 p.m.
- Most exhibits will be disposed of after the fair concludes. However exhibitors are expected to pick up their ribbons and containers.
- Premiums in the Horticulture Department are pay level 5.
- **Exhibitors whose exhibits are selected for State Fair may exhibit vegetables, fruits, flowers or herbs as a substitute from ANY class unless it is designated *The following classes are not eligible for State Fair consideration*. For example, if your State Fair selection was snap beans, you may substitute carrots if you wish.**

Eligibility

All static exhibits must have received a purple ribbon at the county fair to advance to the State Fair.

Scoresheets, Forms, and Contest Study Materials

Scoresheets, forms, contest study materials, and additional resources can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/ne4horticulture>.

Plant Science - Department G Division 770 – Floriculture

Follow the guidelines in 4-H Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibits 4H227 (revised 2016) (<https://unl.box.com/s/2f3a785c67p7ghqasevp6gu6adf3ugon>) when preparing entries for the fair.

Annuals and biennials - 5 stems of a single variety (cultivar) unless otherwise noted in parentheses. (Scoresheet SF106)

CLASS 1	ASTER
CLASS 2	BACHELOR BUTTONS
CLASS 3	BELLS OF IRELAND
CLASS 4	BROWALLIA
CLASS 5	CALENDULA
CLASS 6	CELOSIA (CRESTED OR PLUME) (3 STEMS)

- CLASS 7 COSMOS
- CLASS 8 DAHLIA
- CLASS 9 DIANTHUS
- CLASS 10 FOXGLOVE
- CLASS 11 GLADIOLUS (3 STEMS)
- CLASS 12 GOMPHRENA
- CLASS 13 HOLLYHOCK (3 STEMS)
- CLASS 14 MARIGOLD
- CLASS 15 PANSY
- CLASS 16 PETUNIA
- CLASS 17 SALVIA
- CLASS 18 SNAPDRAGON
- CLASS 19 STATICE
- CLASS 20 SUNFLOWER (under 3" diameter-5 stems, 3" or more in diameter-3 stems)
- CLASS 21 VINCA
- CLASS 22 ZINNIA
- CLASS 23 **ANY OTHER ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL** (under 3" diameter - 5 stems, 3" or more in diameter - 3 stems) (do not duplicate entries in classes 1-22)

Cut flower perennials - 5 stems of a single variety (cultivar) unless otherwise noted in parentheses. (Scoresheet SF106)

- CLASS 30 ACHILLEA / YARROW
- CLASS 31 CHRYSANTHEMUM
- CLASS 32 CONEFLOWER
- CLASS 33 COREOPSIS
- CLASS 34 DAISY
- CLASS 35 GAILLARDIA
- CLASS 36 HELIANTHUS
- CLASS 37 HYDRANGEA (3 STEMS)
- CLASS 38 LIATRIS (3 STEMS)
- CLASS 39 LILIES (3 STEMS) (NOT DAYLILIES)
- CLASS 40 PLATYCODON
- CLASS 41 ROSE (3 STEMS)
- CLASS 42 RUDBECKIA/BLACK-EYED SUSAN
- CLASS 43 SEDUM
- CLASS 44 STATICE
- CLASS 45 **Any other perennial** (under 3" diameter - 5 stems, 3" or more in diameter - 3 stems) (do not duplicate entries in classes 30-44)
- CLASS 46 **4-H Flower Garden Collection of 5 different cut flowers.** Flowers are to be cut not potted. Each flower in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for classes 1-45. Display in a box or other holder not more than 18" in any dimension. Boxes will not be returned at State Fair. Do not duplicate entries in classes 1-45 with any in the group collection.

***The following 900 number class is not eligible for State Fair consideration**

CLASS 901 CONTAINER GARDEN DISPLAY

A container garden display may consist of a single specimen or a collection planting of foliage or flowering annual/biennial or perennial plants. Each plant must be identified by the cultivar and common name for each plant. All containers must come with a saucer to be placed under the container to collect excess water.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

CLASS 50 FLOWER NOTEBOOK (Scoresheet SF100)

Exhibit a notebook containing pictures of flowers grown in Nebraska. There must be at least 10 different species of annuals and/or biennials and 10 different species of perennials hardy to Nebraska. Bulbs may be included in a separate section. 4-H'ers may show more than one cultivar of the same species, but they will only count as one species. The notebook must be the result of the current year's work. Pictures from garden catalogs, hand drawn pictures, or photographs may be used. Each species/cultivar must be labeled with the correct common name and scientific name; the height and spread of the plant and the growing conditions (for example: needs full sun and dry sandy soil) the species prefers. In addition to this information, bulbs should also be labeled as spring or summer flowering. Give proper credit by listing the sources of pictures and information used. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the notebook.

CLASS 51 FLOWER GARDEN PROMOTION POSTER (Scoresheet SF103)

Individual poster promoting flower gardening, size 14" x 22" either vertical or horizontal arrangement. Poster may be in any medium: watercolor, ink, crayon, etc. as long as it is not 3-dimensional. Posters using copyrighted material will not be accepted. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

CLASS 52 EDUCATIONAL FLOWER GARDEN POSTER (Scoresheet SF104)

Prepare a poster 14" x 22" x 2" (3-dimensional if needed) either vertical or horizontal arrangement illustrating a skill or project you have done or learned about in a 4-H flowers or houseplant project. One might show a special technique used or equipment incorporated in the garden. Refer to 4-H horticulture project manuals but use your own creativity. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

CLASS 53 FLOWER GARDENING HISTORY INTERVIEW (Scoresheet SF105)

Neatly handwritten or typed account of a gardening history interview whose flower garden has inspired you. Maximum of 4 pages of text and 2 pages of pictures (include 1 picture of the person you interviewed) of their flower garden if the individual is still gardening. Protect with a clear report cover or small 3-ring

notebook. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the report cover or notebook.

***The following 900 number classes are not eligible for State Fair consideration**

CLASS 902 SIMPLE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Prepare a simple flower arrangement. Materials must consist of fresh flowers, a container that holds water, and be displayed easily on a table top. The flowers may be purchased or home grown. Proper preparation of the plant material must be shown (no foliage below the water line, adequate water to last through the fair, etc.) Containers must be picked up at the end of the fair or they will be disposed of.

CLASS 903 FLORICULTURE SCIENCE EXHIBIT

Display an original creation that demonstrates a horticultural technique or procedure. Examples of this project could be a diorama, photo journal, notebook, model or a drawing. Attach a one page explanation that describes how the entry was made and how it is used in the garden or landscape.

HOUSEPLANTS

1. Youth must be enrolled in Growing Great Houseplants project to exhibit in classes 60-66.
2. **Container Grown Houseplants:** The choice of container and soil quality will be considered in judging. Each houseplant must be identified by listing the names on the entry tag or on a card attached to the container. Identify each plant individually if more than one cultivar or variety. Houseplants should be grown in the display container for a minimum of six weeks. Plants grown as houseplants must be used. NebGuide G2205 "[Guide to Growing Houseplants](#)" and NebGuide G837 "[Guide to Selecting Houseplants](#)" includes a listing of common houseplants. **Containers of annual flowers or annual plants (i.e. petunias, geraniums, impatiens) will be disqualified and will not be judged.**
3. Entries in Classes 60-66 must have been designed and planted by the 4-H member.
4. Container grown houseplants shall be in pots no greater than 12" in diameter (inside opening measurement). Dish gardens, fairy or miniature gardens, desert gardens and terrariums may be up to 12" in diameter (inside opening measurement). Any container grown plant in Classes 60-66 that is greater than 12" in diameter (inside opening measurement) will be dropped one ribbon placing.
5. Classes 60-65 exhibitors must have and provide a saucer to catch drainage water. The 4-H members name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the bottom or back of the container and saucer.

CLASS 60 FLOWERING POTTED HOUSEPLANTS(S) (Scoresheet SF107) that are blooming for exhibition. Container may have one or more houseplants in container. Label name for each plant. Non-blooming plants will be disqualified.

- CLASS 61** **FOLIAGE POTTED HOUSEPLANT** (Scoresheet SF107) one variety of tropical or cacti or succulent plant.
- CLASS 62** **HANGING BASKET** (Scoresheet SF107) of flowering and/or foliage houseplants. Container may have one or more houseplants in container. Label name for each plant.
- CLASS 63** **DISH GARDEN** (Scoresheet SF107) -An open/shallow container featuring a variety of plants excluding cacti and succulents. Label name for each plant.
- CLASS 64** **FAIRY OR MINIATURE GARDEN** (Scoresheet SF107) - A miniature “scene” contained in an open container and featuring miniature or small, slow growing houseplants. The garden needs to have an imaginative theme and miniature accessories i.e. bench, fence made from tiny twigs, small shell for a bath tub, etc. Label name for each plant.
- CLASS 65** **DESERT GARDEN** (Scoresheet SF107) - An open/shallow container featuring cacti and/or succulents. Label with name for each plant.
- CLASS 66** **TERRARIUM** (Scoresheet SF107) - A transparent container, partially or completely enclosed; sealed or unsealed. Label with name for each plant.
- RULES** The 2023 Special Gardening Project is focused on the Mrs. Burns’ Lemon Basil.

***The following 900 number class is not eligible for State Fair consideration**

- CLASS 901** **CONTAINER GARDEN DISPLAY**
Use a 5 gallon bucket or other similar item to create a pleasant collection of foliage or flowering plants. After judging is complete, the display will be used to decorate the fairgrounds. Provide a label to identify plants and the exhibitor.

Plant Science - Department G

Division 773 – Vegetables, Herbs & Fruits

- The cultivar or variety name must be included on all entry cards. Failure to identify the cultivar or variety will drop the entry one ribbon placing. Proper identification is the responsibility of the exhibitor, not the Extension staff or office personnel.
 - Exhibits entered under an incorrect class number or containing an incorrect number of vegetables will be dropped one ribbon placing.
 - In classes 252, 255, 268, 269, 285 and 286 do not duplicate entries from any of the other classes or entry will be dropped one ribbon placing. For example: 4-H’ers with two cultivars or varieties of red tomatoes can only enter the red tomatoes class and cannot enter the other cultivar or variety in any other vegetable class. **Score Sheet SF108.**
- Follow the guidelines in [Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits](#) for Exhibit 4H226 when preparing entries for the fair. At State Fair, plates will be provided for the exhibitor.

VEGETABLES

CLASS #	VEGETABLE	#'S TO EXHIBIT
201	LIMA BEANS	12
202	SNAP BEANS	12
203	WAX BEANS	12
204	BEETS	5
205	BROCCOLI	2
206	BRUSSELS SPROUTS	12
207	GREEN CABBAGE	2
208	RED CABBAGE	2
209	CARROTS	5
210	CAULIFLOWER	2
211	SLICING CUCUMBERS	2
212	PICKLING CUCUMBERS	5
213	EGGPLANT	2
214	KOHLRABI	5
215	MUSKMELON/CANTALOUPE	2
216	OKRA	5
217	YELLOW ONIONS	5
218	RED ONIONS	5
219	WHITE ONIONS	5
220	PARSNIPS	5
221	BELL PEPPERS	5
222	SWEET (NON-BELL) PEPPERS	5
223	JALAPEÑO PEPPERS	5
224	HOT (NON-JALAPENO) PEPPERS	5
225	WHITE POTATOES	5
226	RED POTATOES	5
227	RUSSET POTATOES	5
228	OTHER POTATOES	5
229	PUMPKIN	2
230	MINIATURE PUMPKINS (Jack Be Little Type)	5
231	RADISH	5
232	RHUBARB	5
233	RUTABAGA	2
234	GREEN SUMMER SQUASH	2
235	YELLOW SUMMER SQUASH	2
236	WHITE SUMMER SQUASH	2
237	ACORN SQUASH	2
238	BUTTERNUT SQUASH	2
239	BUTTERCUP SQUASH	2
240	OTHER WINTER SQUASH	2
241	SWEET CORN (IN HUSKS)	5
242	SWISS CHARD	5

243	RED TOMATOES (2" Or More in Diameter)	5
244	ROMA OR SAUCE-TYPE TOMATOES	5
245	SALAD TOMATOES (Under 2" Diameter)	12
246	YELLOW TOMATOES (2" Or More in Diameter)	5
247	TURNIPS	5
248	WATERMELON	2
249	DRY EDIBLE BEANS	1 PINT
250	GOURDS, MIXED TYPES	5
251	GOURDS, SINGLE VARIETY	5
252	ANY OTHER VEGETABLE	2, 5 OR 12 (do not duplicate entries in classes 201-251) if doesn't fit in any other class

CLASS 255 4-H VEGETABLE GARDEN COLLECTION OF FIVE KINDS OF VEGETABLES
 Display Garden Collection in a box not more than 24" in any dimension. Boxes may not be returned from State Fair. Showmanship will be considered in judging, but plastic grass, cotton, figurines, etc. should not be used in exhibit boxes. Each vegetable in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for individual class (201-252). Duplication of entries in classes 201-252 is permitted at Sarpy County Fair, however State Fair exhibits may not duplicate entries in classes 201-252 with any in the group collection.

CLASS 256 4-H CULTIVAR VEGETABLE COLLECTION
 Vegetables entered in the collection are 5 cultivars from a single exhibit; for example, 5 different cultivars of peppers, or 5 different cultivars of squash, onions, tomatoes, etc. Display in a box not more than 24" in any dimension. Boxes may not be returned from State Fair. Showmanship will be considered in judging; but plastic grass, cotton figurines, etc. should not be used in exhibit boxes. Each vegetable in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for individual class (201-252).

MONSTER VEGETABLES

Rules:

Entries must be of good quality, natural in color, and in clean condition.

***The following 900 numbered classes are not eligible for State Fair consideration**

- CLASS 901 TOMATO**
- CLASS 902 BEET**
- CLASS 903 SQUASH, SUMMER**
- CLASS 904 SQUASH, WINTER**
- CLASS 905 CUCUMBER**
- CLASS 906 POTATO**
- CLASS 907 ONION**
- CLASS 908 PUMPKIN**
- CLASS 909 WATERMELON**

ADDITIONAL HORTICULTURE CLASSES

CLASS 910 BEST DRESSED VEGETABLE

Use doll clothes or other materials to dress your favorite or most unusual vegetable. Be creative. One entry per exhibitor. Ribbon only.

CLASS 911 VEGETABLE, FRUIT OR HERB SCIENCE EXHIBIT

Display an original creation that demonstrates a horticultural technique or procedure. Examples of this project could be a diorama, photo journal, notebook, model or a drawing. Attach a one page explanation that describes how the entry was made and how it is used in the garden or landscape.

HERBS

Herbs will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. Those grown mainly for their seed, such as dill and caraway, should be exhibited on a plate. Those grown for their leaves such as basil, parsley, etc. should be exhibited in a Clear glass container of water (no plastic containers at State Fair). Containers may not be returned from State Fair. Potted herb plants will be disqualified and will not be judged. **Score Sheet SF108.**

CLASS #	HERB	#'s TO EXHIBIT
260	BASIL	5
261	DILL (DRY)	5
262	GARLIC (BULBS)	5
263	MINT	5
264	OREGANO	5
265	PARSLEY	5
266	SAGE	5
267	THYME	5
268	ANY OTHER HERB	5

(do not duplicate entries in classes 260-267)

269 4-H HERB GARDEN DISPLAY

Display of 5 different cut herbs. Herbs are to be cut NOT potted. Displayed in a box or other holder not more than 18" in any dimension. Boxes will not be returned at State Fair. Each herb in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for classes 260-268. Duplication of entries in classes 260-268 is permitted at Sarpy County Fair, however State Fair exhibits may not duplicate entries in classes 260-268 with any in the group collection.

FRUITS

Fruits will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. Fruit will be judged for the stage of maturity normal for that season and growing location. Emphasis will be placed on how well fruit approaches market quality. **Score Sheet SF108.**

CLASS #	FRUIT	#'S TO EXHIBIT
280	STRAWBERRIES (EVERBEARERS)	1 PINT
281	GRAPES	2 BUNCHES

282	APPLES	5
283	PEARS	5
284	WILD PLUMS	1 PINT
285	OTHER SMALL FRUIT OR BERRIES	1 PINT
	(do not duplicate entries in classes 280-284)	
286	OTHER FRUITS OR NUTS	5
	(do not duplicate entries in classes 280-284)	

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

CLASS 290 GARDEN PROMOTION POSTER (Scoresheet SF103)

Individual poster promoting vegetable or herb gardening, size 14" x 22" either vertical or horizontal arrangement. Poster may be in any medium so long as it is not 3-dimensional. Posters using copyrighted material will not be accepted. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

CLASS 291 EDUCATIONAL VEGETABLE OR HERB GARDEN POSTER (Scoresheet SF104)

Prepare a poster 14" x 22" x 2" (3-dimensional if needed) either vertical or horizontal arrangement illustrating a skill or project the 4-H'er has done or learned about in a 4-H vegetable gardening project. One might show a special technique used or equipment incorporated in the garden (e.g., drip irrigation system, composting, or special techniques learned). Refer to 4-H horticulture project manuals, but use your own creativity. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

CLASS 292 VEGETABLE AND/OR HERB GARDENING HISTORY INTERVIEW (Scoresheet SF105)

Neatly handwritten or typed account of a gardening history interview whose vegetable or herb garden has inspired you. Maximum of 4 pages of text and 2 pages of pictures (include 1 picture of the person you interviewed) of their garden if the individual is still gardening. Protect with a clear report cover or 3-ring notebook. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the report cover or notebook.

CLASS 293 VEGETABLE SEED DISPLAY (Scoresheet SF101)

Each display must include seeds representing the following families: Cucurbit, Brassica (cabbage), Solanaceous (nightshade), and Legume (pea) families, plus representatives from 5 other families. Group the seeds by family and type. Glue seeds or otherwise fasten clear containers of seeds to a board or poster mat board no larger than 22" x 24". Label each group and each individual vegetable type with the common and scientific names. Use only one variety or cultivar of each vegetable, except for beans where several examples of beans may be shown. Attach a card to the back of the display explaining why and how it is important to know which vegetables are related, and site references on where the scientific name information was found. On the back, label with the 4-H'ers name, age, county, and years in the project(s). Information on vegetable family members can be obtained from your extension office.

- CLASS 294** **WORLD OF VEGETABLES NOTEBOOK** (Scoresheet SF102)
Choose a favorite foreign cuisine and learn what vegetables and/or herbs are common to it (e.g. Mexican, African, Chinese, Italian, etc.). Include a report telling about a minimum of 5 vegetables and/or herbs from each country chosen. Include the scientific and common names; pictures of the plants from your garden or seed catalogs; tell how they are grown; and how the foods are used.

Plant Science - Department G
Division 775 – Special Garden Project

- CLASS 1** **SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT** (Scoresheet SF109)
Educational exhibit based on what was learned from the project. Present information on a poster 14" X 22" either vertical or horizontal arrangement or in a clear plastic report cover. The 4-H member's name, age, and county must be on the back of the poster or report cover.

- CLASS 2** **SPECIAL GARDEN PROJECT FRESH CUT FLOWERS, HERBS OR HARVESTED VEGETABLES** (Scoresheet SF109)
The current years' Special Garden Project fresh cut flowers, herbs, or harvested vegetables should be entered in this class. Refer to classes 001-045 for quantity to exhibit if special garden project is a fresh cut flower. Score Sheet SF106. Refer to classes 201-252 for quantity to exhibit if special garden project is a vegetable (SF108). Flowers and herbs must be cut not potted.