

# Experimental Horticulture



Image: UK Agricultural Communications

The Experimental Horticulture Project is similar to a science fair project. You choose a horticultural scientific experiment you would like to learn about, and conduct the experiment using the seven steps in the scientific method.

- Step 1 – Question
- Step 2 – Research
- Step 3 – Hypothesis
- Step 4 – Experiment
- Step 5 – Observations
- Step 6 – Results/Conclusion
- Step 7 – Communicate Results (in your one-page description and on your display board)

Choose a scientific experiment related to horticulture. The following are a list of examples, but projects are not limited to these three.

- A “science fair” type of exhibit involving an experiment working with plants
- Comparison of different varieties of vegetables or annual flowers
- Comparison of mulching or other cultural practices

A one-page project description and tri-fold project board are required for this project. The project description and project board should be easy to understand and informative to the viewer, and include the following:

- Title of the project (the title should tell the viewer quickly about the experiment)
- Statement about what is to be accomplished from the experiment
- List of resources used to research and/or complete the project
- Description of materials used to complete the project
- Description of procedures used to complete the project
- Results and conclusion of your project including (but not limited to): hypothesis, results, conclusion, statements by individuals, and photographs of the project

Visit the 4-H Horticulture webpage, <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/horticulture> for the Kentucky State Fair guidelines and scoresheet for this project.

#### References:

KY State Fair Catalog, Division 6015 4-H Horticulture and Plant Science Entries  
 KY State Fair Evaluation Sheet, Lot 6015, Class 563

*Experimental Horticulture Project Sheet prepared by Jessica Sayre, Horticulture Extension Agent for Harrison County, and Ashley Osborne, Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development, 2020.*



4-H is a community of young people who are learning **leadership**, **citizenship** and **life skills**.

“There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.”  
 – Janet Kilburn Phillips.

#### Materials Needed

- Tri-fold project board
- Pictures of project
- One-page description of project stapled to the board or in a folder

#### State Fair Project Information

- Division 6015: 4-H Horticulture and Plant Science
- Class 563: Experimental Horticulture

Visit the 4-H Horticulture webpage at <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/horticulture> for additional information.

