



Leaders' Guide

Planting Ornamental Trees & Shrubs

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Welcome and congratulations for volunteering to lead young people who are interested in the planting of trees and shrubs. Even though these young people have expressed a desire to participate in this particular 4-H project, they'll welcome, enjoy, and benefit from having a wide variety of experiences that will lead to their total development into well rounded individuals.

As a project leader it is your function to guide these young people into experiences that will help them gain new knowledge and skills in the planting of trees and shrubs and become capable and responsible citizens.

THE LEADER'S ROLE

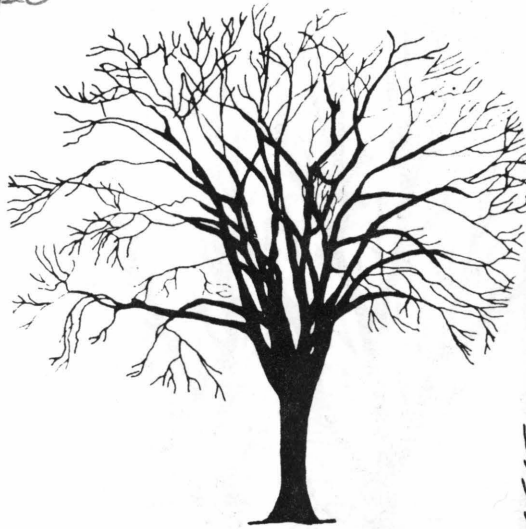
- Become familiar with the project manual and adapt it to the needs and abilities of your particular 4-H group. For example, if it is not possible for each person to acquire and plant a tree or shrub of his/her own, have several 4-Hers be responsible for the same plant.
- Locate sources of materials needed for the project. A local garden club, garden center, farm supply center (for those in rural areas), or community organization may be persuaded to donate the supplies.
- Communicate with parents of youth participating in the project concerning the objectives and solicit their participation in planning and supporting the projects.
- Explain and demonstrate the information given in the project.

Publication 426-931
1988



- Organize interesting and educational programs and trips for meetings.
- Encourage presentations and exhibits in connection with the project.
- Recognize the individual 4-H'ers whenever the opportunity presents itself and arrange to see each project.
- Supply additional information about trees, shrubs, and related topics when needed.
- Encourage participation in total county 4-H programs.
- Attend 4-H leader training or orientation meetings concerning your role as a leader and operational procedures for conducting the project if available.
- Become familiar with other 4-H horticulture project opportunities.
- Cooperate with the local Extension 4-H office by submitting all required records pertaining to your 4-H project group.

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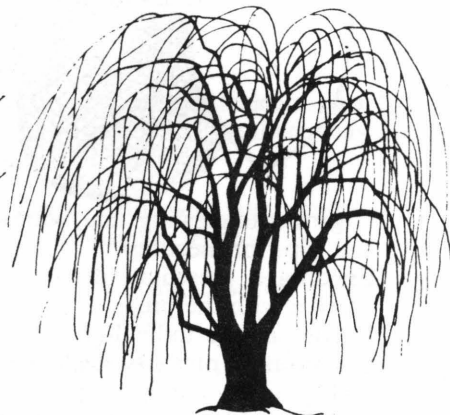
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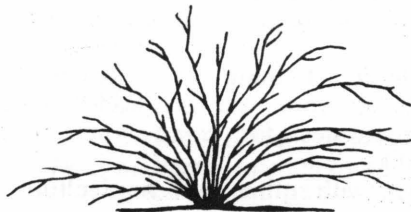
Upright



Horizontal



Weeping



Widespreading

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR 4-H'ERS

All youth have the same basic needs, yet each young person is different. Each comes from a different home and community, has different attitudes, beliefs, interests, likes, dislikes, and capabilities. Not only are young people of the same age group different, but there is a difference between pre-teens and teen-agers. As a general rule, here are some common characteristics of each age group.

Pre-teens

- Short interest span
- Will accept direction and leadership freely
- Want to be in a gang
- Like to be in their own sex group
- Like symbols and regalia

Teen-agers

- Want a voice in program
- Are in the try-out age
- Strong urge to conform to age groups
- Want to be in co-educational groups
- More choices to make on where to spend time

Request additional information from your 4-H agent.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The tree and shrub project teaches how to choose, plant, and care for trees and shrubs suitable for Virginia landscapes. The 4-H'ers involved in the project will learn

- How trees and shrubs improve the environment
- Uses of trees and shrubs in the landscapes
- To identify various trees and shrubs
- To choose trees and shrubs for planting
- To plant trees and shrubs
- To fertilize trees and shrubs
- To prune trees and shrubs
- To keep a project record

INFORMATION NEEDED BY THE PROJECT LEADER

Consult references given at the end of this publication or select other available books and publications to obtain the following information:

- Identification of common trees and shrubs in Virginia
- How to plant trees and shrubs
- How to care for trees and shrubs
- Common problems (insects, diseases, environment)

PROJECT MEETINGS

- Following are suggested meetings; however, the order of the meetings may be changed depending on the time of year or when the project is started. Other meetings may be added.
- Keep the meetings short and interesting.
- Adapt the program suggestions to the interests and needs of your 4-H group.

Meeting 1: Introduction to Trees and Shrubs

- Discuss how trees and shrubs improve the environment. Take a walking tour to identify trees and shrubs and their use in the landscape. If possible, find and point out the plants that are suggested in the project book. Request slide set *How Plant Changes Man's Environment* from LRC Film Library, Virginia Tech campus.
- Tell the 4-H'ers to discuss with their parents where a tree or shrub could be planted in their yards and make a report at the next meeting. If a 4-H'er is unable to plant a tree or shrub on his home grounds, try to arrange another location such as a park, school playground, or church yard.
- Demonstrate how to collect and press tree and shrub leaves. Request that 4-H'ers bring in 5 pressed leaves for next meeting with description of the plants.

Meeting 2: Selecting Plants

- Discuss how different plants grow: size, shape, color. Help identify the leaves brought in.
- Allow each member to tell what plant was selected for planting and why. Help them be certain the tree or shrub is suitable based on criteria in 4-H project book 426-930.

Meeting 3: Planting Trees and Shrubs

- Demonstrate planting a tree and a shrub.
- Take the group to a nursery and let them pick out their own plants. Or it may be better for you, as a project leader, to obtain all the necessary plants. Or, parents may want to help select the plants.

Meeting 4: Care of trees and shrubs

- Demonstrate maintenance pruning of trees and shrubs. Have 4-H'ers practice pruning.
- Demonstrate how to fertilize and have members practice.

Meeting 5:

- Field trip (Choose from suggestions in the project book and the list in this publication under field trips.)

Meeting 6:

- Organize a tour to visit the individual plantings of each member of the project group. Invite parents and friends to join the tour.

SUGGESTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Presentations—to develop poise and speaking ability. Suggest topics and supply reference materials for such topics as:

Possible topics—

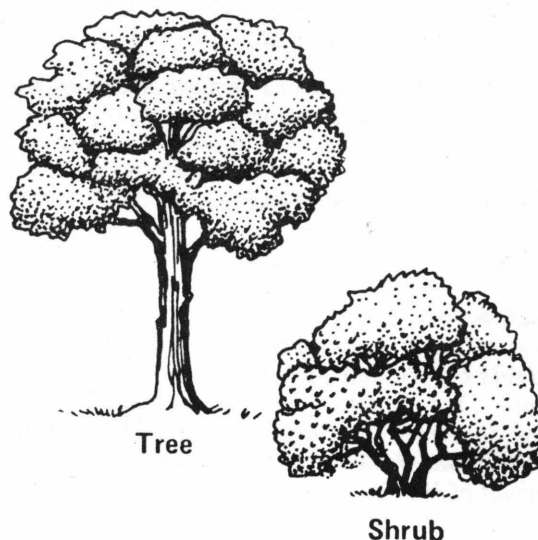
- Planting a shrub
- Planting a tree
- Pruning ornamental trees
- Pruning ornamental shrubs
- Fertilizing shade trees
- 4-H youth over the age of 14 completing this project are eligible for a District scholarship to 4-H State Congress. See your agent for details.

Exhibits—to show project results.

- Have members exhibit photos at the county fair depicting their planting, pruning, and fertilizing activities.

Field trips—for additional learning experiences and as an introduction to possible careers in horticulture. Arrange in advance for someone to talk to the group.

- Landscape nursery
- Tree service company
- Landscape architecture
- Tree surgeon
- Botanic garden, arboretum, or historic garden



OTHER 4-H HORTICULTURE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

4-H Vegetable Projects:

- 426-891 - *4-H Vegetable Gardening Handbook*
- 426-892 - *4-H Vegetable Garden-Unit 2-Record Book for Intermediates*
- 426-897 - *4-H Commercial Vegetable Production and Marketing*
- 426-901 - *4-H Urban Gardening Project - Kitchen Garden*
- 426-902 - *4-H Urban Vegetable Seed*
- 426-903 - *4-H Urban Garden Ecology*
- 426-904 - *4-H Urban Windowsill Salad Garden*
- 426-905 - *4-H Urban Container Garden*
- 426-906 - *4-H Urban Small Fruits*
- 426-907 - *4-H Urban Herb Garden*
- 426-908 - *4-H Urban Vegetable Garden*
- 426-909 - *4-H Urban Garden Pests*
- 426-910 - *4-H Urban Gardening Nutrition*
- 426-911 - *Help Sheets - The 4-H Urban Gardening Project*
- 426-912 - *Help Sheets - Seeds*
- 426-913 - *Help Sheets - Things Needed*
- 426-914 - *Help Sheets - Watering*
- 426-915 - *Help Sheets - Fertilizing*
- 426-916 - *Help Sheets - Transplanting*
- 426-917 - *Help Sheets - Plants & Nutrition*
- 426-918 - *Leaders Guide - Urban Gardening*

Related Projects:

Other 4-H projects complement the learning activities of this project. For example, members may be interested in these projects.

- Learn to Earn: Combine lawn care, use of equipment, and business records.
- Small Engines: Care and use of mowers and other power equipment.
- Photography: Record project activities on film to show accomplishments.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Books

Trees, A Golden Nature Guide
Trees of North America by C. Frank Brockman
X Trees by William M Harlow
Winter Tree Finder by Mary Watts and Tom Watts
Trees for American Gardens by Donald Wyman
Know It and Grow It by Carl Whitcomb
Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael Dirr

RESOURCES

Slides - (Slides and videotapes available from LRC Film Library, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061)

- 4-H - Kitchen Garden Project*
- 4-H - Motivational*
- 4-H - Garden Ecology*
- 4-H - Vegetable Garden Project*
- Plants Changing Man's Environment*
- Pruning Trees & Shrubs*

Videotapes

- 4-H - How Plants Grow*

Va. Tech Publications

- 430-295 - *Guidelines for Planting Landscape Trees*
- 430-296 - *Landscape Plants*
- 430-395 - *Protecting and Repairing Trees During Construction*
- 430-455 - *Pruning Ornamental Trees*
- 430-456 - *Fertilizing and Mulching Shrubs and Trees*
- 430-457 - *Pruning Shrubs*
- 430-597 - *Shade Trees for Virginia*
- 444-020 - *The Gypsy Moth*
- 444-021 - *Recognition of Life History and Habits - Gypsy Moth*
- 444-022 - *The Homeowner and Gypsy Moth: Guidelines for Control*
- 444-024 - *Gypsy Moth: A Major Pest of Trees*
- 444-113 - *Insect Identification Laboratory Diagnosis Request Form*
- 450-002 - *Needlecast of Conifers*
- 450-007 - *Eastern Gall Rust*
- 450-027 - *Brown Spot Needle Blight of Conifers*
- 450-037 - *Propagating and Growing Disease-free Plants*
- 450-039 - *Black Root Rot of Japanese Holly*
- 450-041 - *Diseases of Enonymus*
- 450-042 - *The Major Diseases of Dogwood*
- 450-088 - *Fire Blight of Ornamentals*
- 450-091 - *Hemlock Twig Rust*
- 450-097 - *Plant Disease Diagnostic Form*
- 450-118 - *Juniper Twig Blight*
- 450-119 - *Azalea Leaf and Flower Gall*

Printed through a grant from The Virginia Nurserymen's Association.

Revised and adapted to Virginia with permission from University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1977, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mitchell R. Geasler, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and Vice Provost for Extension, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia; Clinton V. Turner, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia.