



A Pacific Northwest Cooperative Extension Publication Washington Oregon Idaho

Ornamental Maintenance is an advanced ornamental garden project. The purpose of this project is to learn and use the skills concerned with the establishment and maintenance of ornamental plantings. Production Garden projects are directed toward producing crops, either food or ornamental plants, for some use and/or for sale. In Ornamental Maintenance, the 4-H members will develop skills that can be used to provide maintenance services for care of their home grounds and for sale to other people. These salable services include turf maintenance, tree and shrub care, flowers and ground covers, and general yard services.

#### REQUIREMENTS

1. You should be an advanced 4-H member 15 years of age or older and have completed at least two other 4-H garden projects.
2. You should assume the major responsibility for the care of an area of ornamental plantings for an entire season. This can be:

- a. Care of all or part of your home grounds, or
- b. Care and maintenance of someone else's yard, or
- c. Care of a public area in your neighborhood, or
- d. Work for a nursery or maintenance crew maintaining ornamental plantings.

3. Keep a record of all learning events, work activities, and pay or compensation received for the services rendered.
4. Attend project meetings and/or other learning opportunities to learn how to care for ornamental plants.

#### SUGGESTIONS

1. Construct one educational exhibit that illustrates how to do one garden maintenance job correctly. Display this exhibit at a club meeting, and enter it in your local or county fair if possible.

2. Submit your project record book and story to your project leader at the end of the season.
3. Exhibit a project demonstration at your county fair.

### **CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT**

Discuss your ornamental maintenance project with your family. You may want to assume the care of part or all of the home grounds (this is recommended for first year projects), or you may want to do certain types of yard maintenance for other people in your community. If you plan to do custom yard work as part or all of your ornamental maintenance project, you will need certain tools to work with. You should plan to finance the purchase of needed tools, or decide under what conditions you can borrow or rent family-owned tools. (In either case, allow depreciation costs on the tools as a part of your project expenses.)

Next, visit with neighbors and friends about possible maintenance jobs you could do as part of your project. These could be certain jobs done for the entire season (lawn mowing, weeding, watering), or the entire care of certain grounds for a limited time while the owners are vacationing. Check with local nursery and garden stores for employment opportunities with them or their customers.

Plan your activities in advance. Manage your time and do the maintenance jobs you plan with a minimum of assistance.

Your garden project leader can help you plan your project and assist you with specific maintenance information as you need it. Attend all project meetings and take advantage of other programs in your neighborhood that will help you learn more about ornamental plant care.

Keep accurate records of the maintenance jobs you do including all expenses and income received from them. Ornamental maintenance can help you earn a significant income in your free time. Remember, in this project, your objective is to learn skills and use those skills to benefit yourself and/or your family and community.

### **LEARN MAINTENANCE SKILLS**

The following are some of the ways you can learn about and develop gardening skills:

1. Start your own personal reference library by collecting bulletins and garden catalogs. (Ask your project leader or county agent for a list of bulletins available.)
2. Visit individually or with your project group, nurseries, garden stores, equipment rental businesses, or public parks to see the maintenance equipment used.
3. Attend garden programs or lectures when offered in your community.
4. Visit a local garden club (you might want to join one).
5. Attend a 4-H Garden Camp.

### **USE YOUR SKILLS**

The knowledge and skills you learn in Ornamental Maintenance can be used in many ways. The following are some of the ways you may want to use your skills:

- Start a lawn care, hedge trimming, or other "maintenance service" in your community.
- Offer a "yard care" service for people who are vacationing or are away from home for extended periods.
- Work part time after school for the grounds superintendent at a park, golf course, cemetery, or other public grounds.
- Assume the care of the grounds around your church or synagogue.
- Assist elderly or handicapped neighbors with their yard care.
- Work for a landscape maintenance business.
- Work for a nursery or garden store.
- Volunteer to lead other youth groups in clean up, fix up projects in your community.