

March 1, 2022

TO: All Coös County 4-H Members & Leaders

From: Chris Whiting, 4-H Program Manager

Subject: 2022 Coös 4-H Garden Program

Coös County has a strong 4-H gardening tradition. It is a great way for members to learn and grow during the summer months as well as provide fresh vegetables for their family and maybe even have enough to donate or sell! The Lancaster Fair provides a great way for members to exhibit the "fruits" of their labor also. The major parts of the Coös County 4H Gardening Program in 2022 will include:

- \*4-H Garden Workshop, April 23
- \*Inoculating Mushrooms, April 23
- \*Garden Seeds, final disbursement June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \*Giant Sunflower Contest, orders Due March 31
- \* Pumpkin seed orders due March 31
- \* Sunflower planting project (variety from dwarf to giant), orders Due March 31
- \*Tom Gill Memorial Seedlings Program, Orders Due March 31
- \* "Sprouting a Pizza Garden", Orders Due March 31
- \*Plant Pick Up Days, June 2<sup>nd</sup> (12-6pm) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (9am-4pm)
- \*Garden Mentor check-ins via email and in person, as needed
- \*Garden and Record Book Evaluations, August 24<sup>th</sup>, All Day
- \*Record Book Judging at Lancaster Fair

**IMPORTANT:** 4H members must complete the sign-up for the 2022 Garden Program on their 4Honline account. Current 4-H Members with a profile go to [www.v2.4honline.com](http://www.v2.4honline.com) login and select the child's name under Register a Member in an Event then select 2022 Coos 4-H Garden Program, complete the form. Late signups cannot be accepted for Tom Gill Program, Inoculating Mushrooms, Pizza Garden, Giant Sunflowers, Sunflower Variety or Pumpkins. Various seeds will be available first-come-first serve at each of the Garden Workshops and Plant pick up day.

***There will be no pre-orders for seeds this year except for Giant Sunflower, Sunflower Variety and Pumpkin (not necessarily giant but should be large)***

**>PLEASE NOTE ORDER DEADLINES<**

### **1. Tom Gill Memorial Seedlings**

Way back in 1945 Tom Gill Sr., a florist of Berlin, NH and member of the Berlin Kiwanis club provided 4-H members in Coös County with many vegetable plants over a period of about fifteen years. The original purpose of the program was to experiment with different plant varieties to see how they survived in the North Country. In exchange for

the free plants, the 4-H **members were obligated to give feedback** regarding their successes and failures. In August 1971, Tom passed away; but the Kiwanis Club of Berlin has continued to carry on the program as a memorial.

These are the original objectives for the contest which traditionally have been on a three year cycle.

- To provide 4-H Club members with new varieties of plants.
- To encourage Club members to keep growth and production records so that the information may be used by other gardeners.
- To provide competition among Club members in the garden program for the purpose of encouraging good garden practices.

Rules for participating in Tom Gill Plant Project:

Coös County 4H'ers will be permitted to participate in the **Tom Gill program for more than the traditional three** consecutive years as long as the youth is an enrolled 4-H member or part of a recognized 4-H Group and **commits to keeping good records of the project**. Even if the garden does not do well, the record book should reflect that and be up to date. First year participants will receive Tomatoes, Peppers and Marigolds. Second year participants will receive Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery and Marigolds. Third year participants will receive Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery, Broccoli and Petunias. Participants beyond the three years will receive Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery, Broccoli and a surprise plant (varies each year). Up to six plants of each variety will be provided to each participant at no charge. The funding for the plants is provided by the Berlin Kiwanis and Coös County 4-H Advisory Council, therefore, Thank You notes should be sent to these organizations. All 4-H members (age 8 or older) who have not participated previously are eligible for the first year competition. Below are current lists of those eligible for years 2, 3 and Advanced. Please let us know if our records are not accurate. Awards will be given for best individual variety and best overall garden.

***Up to date records must be kept and presented for judging to be eligible for awards.***

**Eligible for Tom Gill 2nd year in 2022(Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery, Marigolds)**

James Kuhn

Lydia Ross

Brooke Lavoie

Caleb Ross

Joshua Ross

**Eligible for Tom Gill 3rd year in 2022 (Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery, Broccoli, Petunias)**

Jayse Law

**Eligible for Tom Gill Advanced in 2022 (Tomatoes, Peppers, Celery, Broccoli, Surprise)**

Samantha Kuhn

Aiden Smith

Jackson Smith

## 2. Garden Seeds

Through generous donations by the Coös County 4H Advisory Council, free seed packages are offered to ALL 4H members and Cloverbuds. Even if you have previously completed the Tom Gill seedling Program, **you are eligible to participate in the other 4-H Garden Program offerings and events. Final day to choose seeds will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> during Plant Pick-up Day.**

*This year we are not taking “orders” for seeds. The Coös County 4-H Advisory council was given a very good deal on leftover seeds. The variety includes vegetables, herbs, flowers, melons, and pumpkins. The dates on the packages reflect older seeds however the germination rate should still be adequate. They will be disbursed on a first come, first serve basis. Cloverbuds may choose up to 3 packets of seeds, Beginners (1-2 years) up to 4 packets, Intermediates (3-4 years)-up to 5 packets, and Advanced (5+ years) –up to 6 packets.*

### Objectives:

To provide 4-H members with a variety of seeds with which they can plant, grow, and then harvest and utilize or exhibit the resulting produce.

- To educate 4-H youth in the vast array of topics in the Garden Program.
- To encourage 4-H members to keep growth and production records so that the information may be used to make future gardening decisions and be used by other gardeners.
- To encourage 4-H members to experiment with different gardening techniques and plants.
- To provide competition among 4-H members ages 8-18 in the Garden Program for the purpose of encouraging good garden practices
- To encourage creativity in the use of garden produce beyond food purposes.
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*All 4-H members are eligible for **Pumpkin seeds (potential to grow 100+ pound pumpkin) and Giant Sunflower seeds** in addition to above seeds or plants. Giant Sunflower Contest is open to ages 5-18 for TALLEST PLANT (height will be measured on August 24<sup>th</sup>). Participants are expected to keep growth records and encouraged to exhibit their giant Sunflower in the Lancaster Fair 4-H. (Remember you can also enter the giant FLOWER HEAD in Lancaster Fair Giant Sunflower contests)*

**NOTE: In order to achieve the yearly Garden Completion Award and/or other Awards, participants in the Tom Gill or seed program(s) are expected to keep accurate records on their gardens.**

**Please only choose what you intend to plant and keep records on!**

**3. Want to Learn How to Grow Shiitake Mushrooms?** Sign up for the Workshop on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in your 4HOnline account. Limited number of participants for this workshop!

#### 4. Sunflower Planting Project

Youth ages 5-18 participating will get a variety of Sunflower seeds, plant the seeds and keep records of the project.

#### 5. “Sprouting a Pizza Garden”

In this project, you will grow toppings like microgreens and herbs for pizza and learn about the nutrition in pizza. There will be lots of opportunity to create and make! You can work on the activities on your own or get support from a project helper. Each of the activities are designed to give you the opportunity to learn by doing. Then, you can reflect on what you did and apply it to your everyday life. We hope to give you opportunities to share your work with others while working on this project.

#### 6. Pick-up Day

Tom Gill Plants and *final* Garden Seed (first-come-first-serve) Pick-up date will be **Thursday June 2 from 12-6pm and Friday, June 3 from 9am-4pm** at the UNH Cooperative Extension office, Coös County, Route 3, Lancaster. A mixed variety of seed packets will be available to those who would like to participate in the 2022 Garden Project.

#### 7. Garden Judging & Garden Visits

It is expected that all 4-H members participating in any portion of the Garden Program will have their record books kept up to date and their garden and/or record book evaluated on Garden Evaluation Day August 24<sup>th</sup> and judged at the Lancaster Fair. If for whatever reason the garden itself is not being judged, the record book will show the garden mentor/judge what you learned through this project each month. Gardens will be judged on **Thursday, August 24**. Please call us to confirm the location of your garden.

A garden mentor will be available to consult with through the growing season. This will allow you to ask any questions you may have and trouble-shoot problems. Most of this communication will be via email. Remember, the final garden mentor visit will be for judging your garden on August 24. Please leave your record book out beside your garden in a zip lock plastic bag if you are not able to be there. Of course, you will also want to show the same produce or products made from the produce at the Lancaster Fair.

