**2023
CHILLIWACK STUDENTS’ GARDEN PROGRAM
INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS.
CONTAINERS**

As soon as you get your package home, **refrigerate your seeds in the zip lock bag** until you are ready to plant. If you have seeds left over after your garden is planted, the best way to store them to keep them viable is to place them back in your refrigerator or freezer. You may use them to replant spots that did not do so well. You may also want to place these instructions in a binder or folder to keep them clean and all together.

All Containers need to have a **sign with your name on it**, and you also need **stakes naming the type of flower or vegetable planted**. Use a permanent marker or paint to be sure it does not fade. Please refer to the judging rubrics.

We encourage you to start a compost pile if your family doesn’t already have one. You will earn extra marks at the second judging if you have started one.

Please see your calendar for dates and times the judging will take place. Your garden judge will be contacting you in advance to make arrangements for the first visit and we kindly ask that you do reply to them to confirm. If you have a dog, please keep it confined when the judge comes to inspect your garden. If you are planning to be away during the time of the second inspection, please let your judge know and make other arrangements for that visit. Do not remove any plants form your container or garden plot, until all judging has been completed.

**“FROM PLANTS TO PLATES”** is the **POSTER** theme for 2023. **Posters are optional**. If you choose to make a poster, the measurement of it may not be any larger than 12” x 18” (**OVERSIZED POSTERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)**. It may be smaller but not larger. It must have the title on it to qualify. Thinking of the theme you may draw anything you like and poetry is also allowed. The back of the poster must include your name, address, telephone number, grade you were in when you applied for the program, and the school you attended. Your judge will pick up your poster at the second inspection. It will be **YOUR** responsibility to hand it to your judge. All posters submitted will be judged and displayed at the Chilliwack Exhibition and the winners receive ribbons. You may pick up your posters at the seasons end Awards Ceremony.

Keeping a **JOURNAL** is also optional**.** It can be very beneficial to have a record of your work as well as educational. The journal could include when you received your seeds, how you planned and prepared your garden, when the first signs of your plants appeared, entries about the weather (sunny, windy, cloudy, the temperature etc.) germination and plant growth (planting date, date plants came up, growth etc.) plant, produce and flower care and growth (plant growth, produce growth, flower bud and bloom growth, weeding, cultivation, watering details, etc.) We would encourage you to add descriptive words and comments, and include stickers, charts, diagrams or drawings. Please refer to judging rubric. You could also enter when your inspections took place and include you score sheets. The journal will need to be turned in at your **School by September 15, 2023,** for marking. Winners will receive ribbons. Your journals will be returned to you.

The garden judges are the first to recognize student achievement each year. They give marks at two inspections of your container and then choose Top containers. There are ribbons to be given for Top containers, Honorable mentions, Posters, Journals and Chilliwack Exhibition winners, and every participant will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

**On September 21,2023** we are planning to have an **AWARDS CEREMONY,** where gardeners will have the opportunity to be recognized by their fellow gardeners. Parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters are welcome to attend the **AWARDS CEREMONY** for the presentations of the awards and the Aggregate Trophies. The location and time will be announced.

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**CONTAINERS**

**Size** Minimum – **45 cm across or diameter and 45 cm deep**

You may be more successful if you consider a container larger than 45 cm as small containers dry out quickly during hot summer days. Once plants have dried out, they take a while to come back and then are more susceptible to further damage from insect.

Prepare your container by making sure it is absolutely clean and has drainage holes in the bottom. **Drainage** is important for healthy plants. Place small rocks, coffee filters, newspaper, or broken crockery over the holes, this will keep the soil in and let excess water drain out. Fill your container almost to the top with a **good potting soil mix (#1 Sunshine Potting Mix).** Garden soil does not work well in a container because it compacts and does not leave room for the roots of your plants to grow. Firm down the soil, water, and then plant seeds as directed. The addition of a slow-release fertilizer is beneficial.

**Seed Variety and Identification**

**Junior** – Patio Snacker Cucumber and Brocade Marigold

**Intermediate** – Mokum carrot and Cupcake Blend Zinnias

**Senior –** Little Marvel Bush peas and Teddy Bear Sunflowers

**Planting your seeds**

The best time to plant your container, is after the danger of frost has passed.

**Cucumbers**: (**Patio Snacker)** These plants are best grown on a trellis of 4-5 feet in height as the vines cling like peas and grow quite tall. Heat, sun and rich soil are the keys to growing success with these plants. Plant 3 seeds towards the front of the container, thin to one or two plants when the plants are 10 cm tall, 20 cm apart.

**Marigolds: (Brocade)** These plants produce brilliant 5cm (2") wide flowers in gold to mahogany atop 30-38cm (12-15") plants. Plant seeds 1 cm deep, 8 cm apart, cover lightly. If it is warm enough they should germinate in 7-14 days This is a medium height marigold that works well in large containers. Grow in full sun and deadhead regularly to enjoy flowers from May to heavy frost. They are long lasting cut flower, thin to three to five plants when they are 10 cm tall, 20 cm apart.

**Carrots: (Mokum)** One of the earliest maturing carrots. If you have carefully prepared your soil, the carrots will grow straight. These carrots are a little shorter and heavier than others. Carrot seeds are tiny, and it is so easy to plant them too thickly. Try to sow them at the rate of 0.5 – 1 cm apart. They should be only 5 mm deep, so cover them lightly with soil. They will germinate in 5 – 6 days. When they are about 2 cm tall, **thin them to 4-10 cm by cutting so as not to pull out other roots**. As they grow the top of the carrot may be exposed, hill the soil up around them up to the stems.

**Zinnias:** (**Cupcake Blend)** Mid-size, mini dahlia – like flowers in unique bi-color patterns. Grows to be 75 cm tall. **Plant seeds 3mm deep, 8 to10 cm apart and barely cover**. Keep moist and thin to 20 cm apart when 10 cm tall.

**Peas: Little Marvel;** This super-early HEIRLOOM bush pea has been a favourite for home gardeners and commercial growers. Stocky, semi-dwarf bushes grow 30-45 cm (12-18”) tall and are well suited to container growing for balcony gardens and in vegetable beds. **Sow seeds 5 cm deep and 5 cm apart, they do not have to be thinned. Seeds should sprout in 7-14 days.**

**Sunflowers: Teddy Bear** Plant for a unique cut flower. Grows to 90 cm (36”). Because these flowers grow so many petals, they are good to sprinkle over salads in the summer. **Plant the seeds 5mm to 1 cm deep and 3-5 cm apart. They can be spaced or thinned to 15 cm apart.**

Keep your container evenly moist being careful not to disturb the newly planted seeds. Containers tend to dry out very quickly and should be watered daily after the plants begin to grow. If it is very hot or windy, you may need to water twice a day, especially in the middle of summer.

**Maintaining your containers**

When you water often, you need to **add plant food**. Use a balanced fertilizer with low numbers (6-8-6). You could add this every 7 – 10 days. **CHILLIWACK EXHIBITION**

**Students are encouraged to enter their best produce into the Chilliwack Exhibition in early August**. The vegetables and flowers can be entered in individual categories as well as a group exhibit. Container gardens may also be entered. All entries receive ribbons and thanks to our sponsors, there is prize money as well. The group winners receive recognition with ribbons in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions. There are also beautiful rosette ribbons given for most points to third place in each division. Please check the calendar for the fair dates.

**PREPARATION OF VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS FOR FAIR ENTRY**

**GENERAL NOTES**

* Do **NOT** use a scrub brush to clean your vegetables.
* **Most Important** is that the uniformity, general health and color are more important than length. The suggested sizes and shapes of the vegetables are only a guide.
* Do not bring in vegetables or flowers in with evidence of pests and / or disease.
* Use scissors or pruning shears to cut stems. You should also trim the roots if they are very long.

To protect the vegetables, it is a good idea to wrap them in a damp paper towel for the trip to the fair.

**AT THE FAIR**

* Together with your vegetable and / or flower entry, bring in your completed entry form for your division to the CSGP section of the fair.
* You will arrange each type of vegetable on a small plate (these plates are provided) and a committee member will fill in an individual form for each entry.
* Your entry will then be set out in the correct area.

**VEGETABLE PREPARATION**

**Carrots**

* Gently wash and if necessary, wipe carrots with a soft cloth.
* Ideal length is 10cm to 15cm long.
* Trim root to 2.5cm.
* Bring **3** carrots.

**Cucumbers**

* When picking use scissors to cut the stem to 1cm, being careful not to pull out the roots of the plant.
* Ideal length is 15cm to 20cm.
* Bring **2** cucumbers.

**Peas**

* When picking use scissors to cut the stem to 1 cm, being careful not to pull out the roots of the plant
* Bring 5 peas

**FLOWER PREPARATIONS**

* **On the day you are taking your flowers to the fair**
Pick your flowers in the early morning and immediately place them in a large vase or bucket. Fill with water to just under the flower head blooms.
* Store in a cool place out of the sun.
* Do a second trimming in a sink and cut the stalks at an angle while under running water.
* Immediately place into vase of water.

Prepare an arrangement of flowers in a vase or jar. The vase or jar should be about 1/3 the height of the flowers. We suggest decorating it with a ribbon, some raffia or whatever you might find that accentuates the arrangement. Also put your name on the **BOTTOM** of the vase or jar, so the judges cannot see it when judging. We look forward to seeing you, your arrangements and produce at the **CHILLIWACK EXHIBITION!**

**CSGP at THE CHILLIWACK EXHIBITION**

**JUNIOR ENTRY FORM (Kindergarten to Grade 2)**

Please bring this completed entry form with your fully prepared exhibit to Chilliwack Heritage Park. Please check calendar for the fair dates and times. Student gardeners may bring in a whole Group Exhibit, and/or Individual Exhibits

**Name:**

**School:**

**School in September:**

**Division of Garden:** 🞏Regular 🞏 Small 🞏 Container

**GROUP EXHIBIT**

**REGULAR GARDEN** – 4 vegetable varieties and one vase of 2 flower varieties

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans

 🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots

 🞏 One vase of zinnias and sunflowers

**SMALL GARDEN** – 3 vegetable varieties and one vase of zinnias

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans

 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of zinnias

**CONTAINER GARDEN** – cucumbers and marigolds

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 2 cucumbers 🞏 one vase of marigolds

**INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS**

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans

 🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of flowers

**CSGP at** **THE CHILLIWACK EXHIBITION**

**INTERMEDIATE ENTRY FORM (Grades 3 to 5)**

Please bring this completed entry form with your fully prepared exhibit to Chilliwack Heritage Park. Please check the calendar for the fair dates and times. Student gardeners may bring in a whole Group Exhibit, and/or Individual Exhibits.

**Name:**

**School:**

**School in September:**

**Division of Garden:** 🞏Regular 🞏 Small 🞏 Container

**GROUP EXHIBIT**

**REGULAR GARDEN** – 5 vegetable varieties and one vase of 3 flower varieties

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans 🞏 2 cucumbers

 🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of flowers

**SMALL GARDEN** – 4 vegetable varieties and one vase of 2 flower varieties

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans 🞏 2 cucumbers

 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of flowers

**CONTAINER GARDEN** – Carrots and Zinnias

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of zinnias

**INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS**

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans 🞏 2 cucumbers

🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 one vase of flowers

**CSGP at THE CHILLIWACK EXHIBITION**

**SENIOR DIVISION ENTRY FORM (Grades 6 to 12)**

Please bring this completed entry form with your fully prepared exhibit to Chilliwack Heritage Park. Please check the calendar for the fair dates and times. Student gardeners may bring in a whole Group Exhibit, and/or Individual Exhibits.

**Name:**

**School:**

**School in September:**

**Division of Garden:** 🞏Regular 🞏 Small 🞏 Container

**GROUP EXHIBIT**

**REGULAR GARDEN** 6 vegetable varieties and one vase of 4 flower varieties

**SMALL GARDEN** 4 vegetable varieties and one vase of 3 flower varieties

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans 🞏 2 cucumbers

 🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 1 cabbage

🞏 1 lettuce 🞏 3 onions 🞏 2 peppers

 🞏 3 potatoes 🞏 3 regular tomatoes 🞏 5 cherry tomatoes

🞏 One vase of flowers

**CONTAINER GARDEN.** Bush peas and Teddy Bear sunflower

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

 🞏 5 Bush peas 🞏 One vase of Teddy Bear Sunflowers

**INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS**

**✓** Each as you fill your order:

🞏 3 beets 🞏 5 beans 🞏 2 cucumbers

 🞏 3 corn cobs 🞏 3 carrots 🞏 1 cabbage

🞏 1 lettuce 🞏 3 onions 🞏 2 peppers

 🞏 3 potatoes 🞏 3 regular tomatoes 🞏 5 cherry tomatoes

 🞏 1 vase of flowers

**CONTAINERS JUDGING RUBRIC**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FIRST JUDGING** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **ARRANGEMENT**Score /15 | Pot |  |  | □ Pot is at least 45 cm across and 45 cm deep |
| Location | □ Pot is located in the shade from trees or buildings and gets little sunlight | □ Pot gets shade from buildings or trees but gets some sun | □ Pot is located in full sun, or mostly full sun |
| Missing or Additions? | □ Variety of plant/s missing, or other variety of plant/s added |  | □ All variety of plants are present, and no other varieties added |
| **SIGN & LABELS**Score /10 | Sign | □ No sign present | □ Sign is present but lacks creativity and effort | □ Sign is prominent and shows attention to detail. It shows creativity and was obviously student made |
| Labels | □ Labels are difficult to locate or they have faded to make them hard to read | □ Pot has easy to read labels in a place where they are visible | □ Labels are creatively made and easy to read and see |
| **SOIL/SOIL MIX**Score /15 | Soil/Soil Mix | □ Hard packed soil/soil mix  | □ Some compaction of soil/soil mix | □ Loose soil/soil mix not compacted |
| Cultivation | □ No evidence of cultivation | □ Some evidence of cultivation | □ Soil/soil mix is well cultivated |
| Weeds | □ Many weeds growing in pot | □ Some weeds growing in pot | □ No weeds growing in pot |
| **VEGETABLES & FLOWERS**Score /10 | Appearance | □ Plants look unhealthy, with limp leaves | □ Some varieties of plants look unhealthy | □ Plants have healthy foliage, firm leaves and good green color |
| Uniformity | □ Plants are very uneven in size and shape | □ Some unevenness in size and shape | □ Plants are even in size and shape |
| **FIRST JUDGING****SCORE**/50 |  |
| **JUNIOR SECOND JUDGING** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **SOIL/SOIL MIX**Score /15 | Soil/Soil Mix | □ Hard packed soil/soil mix  | □ Some compaction of soil/soil mix  | □ Loose soil/soil mix not compacted |
| Cultivation | □ No cultivation evident | □ Some evidence of cultivation | □ Soil/soil mix is well cultivated |
| Weeds | □ Many weeds growing in pot | □ Some weeds growing in pot | □ No weeds growing in pot |
| **THINNING**Score /10 | Cucumbers | □ Cucumber plants are growing close together, with no evidence of thinning | □ Some evidence of thinning of the cucumber plants | □ Cucumbers are thinned to 20 cm apart  |
| Marigolds | □ Marigold plants are close together, with no evidence of thinning  | □ Some marigold plants are too close together | □ Marigolds are thinned to 20 cm apart |
| **JR. CONTAINER****CUCUMBERS**Score /25 | Appearance | □ Evidence of Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves-Some plants have wilted leaves | □ Some plants or leaves look unhealthy | □ Cucumber plants are vigorous and healthy, with good color |
| Pests | □ Plants have lots of insect damage:-shot holes in leaves-bird damage-flea beetles | □ Some evidence of insect damage | □ No evidence of insect damage-insect damaged leaves have been completely removed (not composted) |
| Uniformity | □ Plants are very uneven in size and shape | □ Some unevenness in size and shape | □ Plants are even in size and shape |
| Size | □ Plants are still immature | □ Plants are within 10% of suggested size for second judging | □ Plants are close to mature size |
| Produce | □ Cucumbers are too large, too thin or have thin and thick parts  | □ Some cucumbers are too large, too thin and have thick parts | □ Cucumbers are dark shiny green, are evenly shaped, and not longer than 20 cm |
| **JR. CONTANER****MARIGOLDS**Score /30 | Appearance | □ Evidence of Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves)-Some plants have wilted leaves | □ Some varieties of plants look unhealthy | □ Plants are vigorous and healthy, with good color |
| Pests | □ Plants have lots of insect damage:-bird or slug damage | □ Some evidence of insect damage | □ No evidence of insect damage-insect damaged leaves have been completely removed (not composted) |
| Uniformity | □ Plants are very uneven in size and shape, with gaps | □ Some unevenness in size and shape, with some gaps | □ Plants are even in size and shape, with no plants missing  |
| Sturdiness | □ Marigold plants are flopping, laying on the ground with no stakes | □ Some flowers are flopping, laying on the ground | □ Flowers are upright and not flopping-Have been staked if necessary |
| Pinching | □ Plants have few branches, with no evidence of pinching | □ Some plants have few branches, with little evidence of pinching | □ Compact marigold plants show evidence of pinching  |
| Dead Heading | □ Many dead flowers evident on the plants – no evidence of deadheading  | □ Some dead flower heads remaining on plants | □ All dead flowers are removed from plants  |
| **COMPOST**Score /10 |  |  |  | □ There is a compost pile or composter on the property |
| **SECOND JUDGING****SCORE** /90 |  |
| **TOTAL SCORE** **/140** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **INTRMEDITE SECOND JUDGING**  | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **SOIL/SOIL MIX**Score /15 | Soil/Soil Mix | □ Hard packed soil/soil mix  | □ Some compaction of soil/soil mix  | □ Loose soil/soil mix not compacted |
| **INT. CONTAINERS****CARROTS**Score /25**THINNING**Score /10 | Cultivation | □ No cultivation evident | □ Some evidence of cultivation | □ Soil/soil mix is well cultivated |
| Weeds | □ Many weeds growing in pot | □ Some weeds growing in pot | □ No weeds growing in pot |
| Carrots | □ Carrot plants are growing close together, with no evidence of thinning | □ Some evidence of thinning of the carrot plants | □ Carrots are thinned to 4-10 cm apart  |
| Zinnias | □ Zinnia plants are close together, with no evidence of thinning  | □ Some zinnia plants are too close together | □ Zinnias are thinned to 20 cm apart |
| Produce | □ Carrots are too large, too thin or have thin and thick parts  | □ Some carrots are too large, too thin and have thick parts | □ Carrots are evenly shaped, and not longer than 20 cm |
| **INT. CONTAINER****ZINNIA**Score. /30 | Appearance | □ Evidence of Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves)-Some plants have wilted leaves | □ Some varieties of plants look unhealthy | □ Plants are vigorous and healthy, with good color |
| Pests | □ Plants have lots of insect damage:-bird or slug damage | □ Some evidence of insect damage | □ No evidence of insect damage-insect damaged leaves have been completely removed (not composted) |
| Uniformity | □ Plants are very uneven in size and shape, with gaps | □ Some unevenness in size and shape, with some gaps | □ Plants are even in size and shape, with no plants missing  |
| Sturdiness | □ Zinnia plants are flopping, laying on the ground with no stakes | □ Some flowers are flopping, laying on the ground | □ Flowers are upright and not flopping-Have been staked if necessary |
| Pinching | □ Plants have few branches, with no evidence of pinching | □ Some plants have few branches, with little evidence of pinching | □ Compact zinnia plants show evidence of pinching  |
| Dead Heading | □ Many dead flowers evident on the plants – no evidence of deadheading  | □ Some dead flower heads remaining on plants | □ All dead flowers are removed from plants  |
| **COMPOST**Score /10 |  |  |  | □ There is a compost pile or composter on the property |
| **SECOND JUDGING****SCORE** /90 |  |
| **TOTAL SCORE**/140 |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SENIOR SECOND JUDGING**  | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **SOIL/SOIL MIX**Score /15 | Soil/Soil Mix | □ Hard packed soil/soil mix  | □ Some compaction of soil/soil mix  | □ Loose soil/soil mix not compacted |
| **SENIOR** **CONTAINER****BUSH PEAS**Score /25**THINNING**Score /10 | Cultivation | □ No cultivation evident | □ Some evidence of cultivation | □ Soil/soil mix is well cultivated |
| Weeds | □ Many weeds growing in pot | □ Some weeds growing in pot | □ No weeds growing in pot |
| Bush Peas | □ Pea plants are growing close together, with no evidence of thinning | □ Some evidence of thinning of the pea plants | □ Peas are thinned to 4-10 cm apart  |
| Sunflowers | □ Sunflower plants are close together, with no evidence of thinning  | □ Some sunflower plants are too close together | □ Sunflowers are thinned to 20 cm apart |
| Produce | □ Peas are too large, too thin or have thin and thick parts  | □ Some peas are too large, too thin and have thick parts | □ Peas are evenly shaped, and not longer than 20 cm |
| **SENIOR CONTAINER****SUNFLOWERS**Score. /30 | Appearance | □ Evidence of Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves)-Some plants have wilted leaves | □ Some varieties of plants look unhealthy | □ Plants are vigorous and healthy, with good color |
| Pests | □ Plants have lots of insect damage:-bird or slug damage | □ Some evidence of insect damage | □ No evidence of insect damage-insect damaged leaves have been completely removed (not composted) |
| Uniformity | □ Plants are very uneven in size and shape, with gaps | □ Some unevenness in size and shape, with some gaps | □ Plants are even in size and shape, with no plants missing  |
| Sturdiness | □ Sunflower plants are flopping, laying on the ground with no stakes | □ Some flowers are flopping, laying on the ground | □ Flowers are upright and not flopping-Have been staked if necessary |
| Pinching | □ Plants have few branches, with no evidence of pinching | □ Some plants have few branches, with little evidence of pinching | □ Sunflower plants show evidence of pinching  |
| Dead Heading | □ Many dead flowers evident on the plants – no evidence of deadheading  | □ Some dead flower heads remaining on plants | □ All dead flowers are removed from plants  |
| **COMPOST**Score /10 |  |  |  | □ There is a compost pile or composter on the property |
| **SECOND JUDGING****SCORE** /90 |  |
| **TOTAL SCORE**/140 |  |