



# 4-H Junior Master Gardener

## 4-H Thrive!

Positive Youth Development



Junior Master Gardener (JMG) is an international youth program that teaches youth ages 5 to 13 about horticulture and gardening. Youth that participate in JMG experience hands-on activities and relatable lessons about the importance of horticulture and agriculture in our world. Youth will also be offered the opportunity to improve basic leadership and communication skills by interacting with other youth and volunteer leaders as they learn about horticulture and agriculture. The program has enormous potential to make a positive impact on the following: Environmental awareness, nutritional habits, horticultural knowledge, leadership skills, volunteerism, and community involvement.

### Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

### Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

### Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

### Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

### Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

### Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

### Starting Out Beginner

JMG begins at age 5. The JMG lessons are gardening basics that are simple and easy to follow. There is also a curriculum for pre-school aged children. The 4-H JMG program incorporates learn-by-doing activities involving plants and gardening, which increases the children's awareness and understanding of the importance of agriculture and the environment.

### Learning More Intermediate

JMG intermediate welcomes youth ages 9-13. These youth are challenged with gardening basics as well plant identification and soil types. The intermediate JMG youth are also used as mentors for the younger beginner youth. Individual activities allow youth gardeners to pursue self-directed learning at home. Flexibility is a key component of the 4-H JMG program.

### Exploring Depth Advanced

Careers in horticulture and agriculture:

- Farmer
- Florists
- Agricultural Engineer
- Irrigation Technician
- Nursery manager
- Landscape Architect
- Golf Course attendant
- Forester
- Microbiologist
- Arborist
- Plant Geneticist



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## Expand your experiences!

Youth involvement in horticulture and agriculture experiences creates a healthier world and instills an appreciation for creation among youth. Extension introduced the Junior Master Gardener program into Mississippi in the fall of 2000. A pilot program in north Mississippi determined the program's impact, and it identified and evaluated Mississippi's specific Junior Master Gardener needs. The JMG program has become an integral part of the Mississippi 4-H program and is making a positive influence on Mississippi's youth.



### Resources

Junior Master Gardener. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Retrieved from: <https://imgkids.us/>

Project Learning Tree. Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <https://www.plt.org/>

Project Wild. Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild>

Wilson, J. (2018). Mississippi 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program- Guidelines for Extension Agents. Mississippi State Extension, MS. Retrieved from: <https://extension.msstate.edu/publications/information-sheets/mississippi-4-h-junior-master-gardener-program-guidelines-for>

### Connections & Events

Contact your local county Extension office for JMG meeting dates and times. If your county does not have a JMG, call Warner Creekmore at 662-841-9000 or email [wpc12@msstate.edu](mailto:wpc12@msstate.edu) to find out how to get a JMG started in your community. If you are looking to serve as a volunteer contact your local county Extension office. We are in all 82 counties.

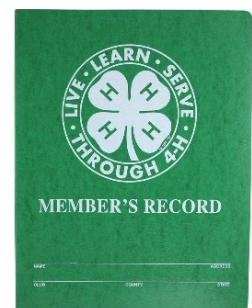
### Curriculum

- Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!
- JMG Handbook
- JMG Health and Nutrition from the Garden
- Literature in the Garden
- Wildlife Gardening
- Operations - Thistle and Water

### 4-H Record Book

- Recording a 4-H member's growth through learning and experience.
- Evaluating your own work
  - Organizational skills
  - Planning and decision-making
  - Identifying and setting goals
  - Using constructive criticism

Record books for this project would be categorized as Garden and Horticulture.



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