



CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbud Connection: June/July

Hi Cloverbud!

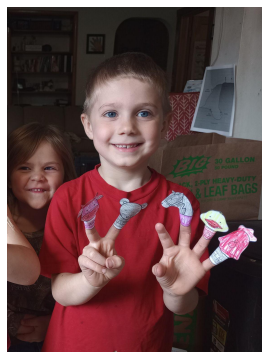
This month, we'll learn about Growing and Gardening. You don't need a big garden to grow things. It can be done in a backyard, on a porch, or even indoors. The different types of gardens include vegetable gardens, flower gardens, and herb gardens.

There are 4 basic parts to gardening and growing:

- Planting: Putting seeds or plants into soil.
- Watering: Giving plants the water they need to grow.
- Weeding: Removing unwanted plants that compete with your garden plants.
- Harvesting: picking fruits, vegetables or flowers when they are ready.

We hope you enjoy these activities about gardening and growing.

Sara, Donna, Karrie, & Beth



Winner of the April Drawing is: Obi from Barron County!

Don't forget to email us what you're working on by the end of each month! We would love to see you in the picture too!

This Month:

- Gardening and Growing
- Giving Back to your Community

Reminders:

- Share a picture of your work
- Save whatever activity work you do in your green folder
- Have Fun!

SAVE THE DATE
Cloverbud Camp
August 19 at Hunt Hill
Registration opens June 15



Being Yourself



Belonging Together



Building Connections



Discovering Skills



Exploring New Opportunities



Giving Back to Your Community



Cloverbud Connection - June/July 2025

Dear Family

The June/July Cloverbud Connection Newsletter and Activity Guide is here! Every month, Cloverbuds (kids in kindergarten to second grade) in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties can join 4-H projects at home and connect with others. Families can choose how much they want to participate. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to have a PenPal, connect online, and attend a Cloverbud Day-Camp in August (save the date-August 19).

This month: Cloverbuds will learn about *Giving Back to your Community* as they learn through discovery, creating and learning with our Gardening theme.

Cloverbud Record Books

Remember to save your great work in your green folder, let your educator know if you need one. These can be kept as a record of learning throughout the year, but is completely optional. Cloverbud record books vary by county. Please check your county's guidelines for record book completion. Ask your club leader or county educator for more information.

Share photos and feedback, get prizes!

We love to see your work and your smiling face working on your activities. Please share photos with your local educator for a chance to win a 4-H prize!

In Wisconsin 4-H we value:



Being Yourself: Find and share your authentic sparks and interests.



Belonging Together: Recognize, understand, respect, and appreciate each other.



Building Connection: Grow positive relationships with peers and adults.



Discovering Skills: Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive.



Exploring New Opportunities: Open the door to new experiences, projects, and places.



Giving Back to Your Community: Make meaningful contributions through community service and leadership.

Questions? Contact:

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Rusk County:

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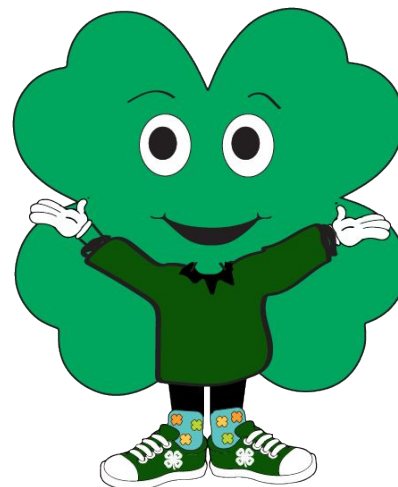
donna.knuckey@wisc.edu

Burnett &

Beth Rank

Washburn County:

beth.rank@wisc.edu





June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

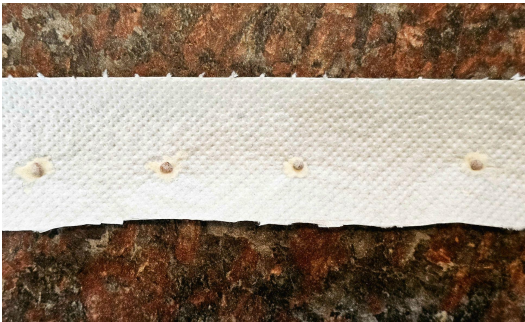
Activity #1: Seed Tape

What is Seed Tape? Seed tape is a lightweight paper with seeds attached at the proper spacing for planting. Different seeds need to be planted at different depths. Seed tape makes sure seeds are planted the right way so they can grow into healthy plants.

Germination: In order to start a garden, you need to plant seeds. For seeds to grow into a plant (germination) the seed needs:

- Right depth: it has to be planted not too deep and not too shallow
- Space: it needs room to grow.
- Water: It needs to drink water.
- Sunlight: It needs light from the sun.
- Warmth: It needs to be warm.

If everything is just right, the seed will sprout and start to grow! Seed tape is helpful in making sure things are just right!



Supplies:

- Newspaper, paper towels, or facial tissue
- Flour/water mixture
- Small seeds such as lettuce, carrots, radish, turnip
- Ruler, Pencil, Plastic storage bag

Directions:

- Cut paper towel, tissue or newspaper into 2-inch strips and 12 inches long.
- Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour with enough water mixed in to make it the consistency of thick gravy or glue.
- With a ruler and a pencil, draw small dots every so many inches on the strips of paper/tissue/towel (based on the seed spacing per variety).
- Place one seed on each dot and then place a drop of flour mixture on each seed using a teaspoon, cotton swab or toothpick.
- Allow flour mix to dry completely before moving and storing strips. Strips can be placed into a plastic bag once they have dried. Add a tablespoon of powdered milk and a paper towel to the bag to keep seeds dry.
- Label the bags or slide the corresponding seed packet into the bag so the tapes can be identified later.
- Plant seed tapes based on recommended depths according to seed packet or variety.



June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #2: Self-Watering Planter

Take gardening and growing indoors with a self-watering planter!

What is a Self-Watering Planter?

A self-watering planter is a special pot that helps plants get water all by themselves. It has two main parts:

1. Water Reservoir: this is the bottom part that holds water.
2. Planting Area: this is the top part where you put the soil and seeds.

How it works:

1. Water Reservoir: You fill this part with water.
2. Wicking System: A special piece (the wick) pulls water up to the soil.

Why It's Great:

- Always enough water: Plants get just the right amount of water through the wick.
- Easy to take care of: You don't have to water plants every day

Supplies:

- 2 liter (or any size) Plastic Pop Bottle
- Fabric Strips or Thick Cotton or Polyester Yarn or Cord or Felt
- Soil
- Seeds

Directions

1. Rinse out the bottle and peel off the label.
2. Cut the bottle into 2 (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down) - an adult should help to start the hole, scissors can be used to finish cutting. *be careful with sharp edges of bottle.
3. Ask an adult to make a hole in the lid using a drill or hammer and a nail.
4. Cut 3 fabric strips, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and long enough to reach the bottom and top of the longer half of the bottle. (interfacing for sewing works great)
5. Thread the fabric through the lid and screw the lid onto the bottle.
6. Place the top of the bottle upside down into the bottom half of the bottle and fill $\frac{1}{3}$ way with soil.
7. Spread the fabric strips out equally.
8. Fill the rest of the way with soil.
9. Plant the seeds and add water to the base.





June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #3: Wisconsin “Know your Weeds” Bingo

Weeds are wild plants that pop up where we don't want them, like in our gardens. They're super tough and can grow almost anywhere! But we don't want them because they make it hard for our other plants to grow big and strong.

Can you help find some weeds near you? Use the pictures on the next pages to help. Look in your yard, on a walk, in a garden, or anywhere you see plants growing. Be safe and stay on the path!

When you find a weed from the pictures, put an **X** over its picture below. Try to get **five X's in a row** – across, down, or diagonally!



Sources:

<https://eagleriverco.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/WW-Bingo-Weed-Identification-Guide.pdf>
<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/weed-identification/>



June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #3: Wisconsin Weeds Bingo - Weed Identification

Bindweed

Look for: Twisty vines with pink or white trumpet-shaped flowers.



Black-eyed Susan

Look for: Bright yellow flower with a dark brown center.



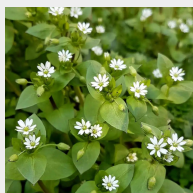
Burdock

Look for: Big leaves and purple flowers that turn into sticky burrs.



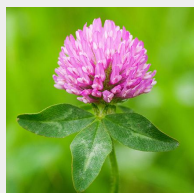
Chickweed

Look for: Tiny white star-shaped flowers and soft green leaves.



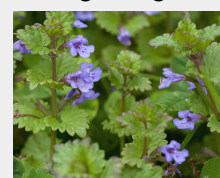
Clover (Red)

Look for: Three round leaves and pinkish-red flowers.



Creeping Charlie

Look for: Small round leaves and tiny purple flowers. It crawls along the ground.



Dandelion

Look for: Yellow flowers that turn into white puff balls.



Evening Primrose

Look for: Yellow flowers that open in the evening.



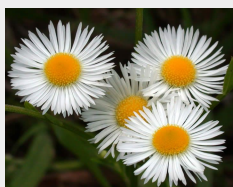
Fireweed

Look for: Tall plant with pink flowers and skinny leaves.



Fleabane

Look for: Small daisy-like flowers with skinny white petals.



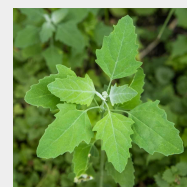
Goldenrod

Look for: Tall with bunches of tiny yellow flowers on top.



Lamb's Quarters

Look for: Green leaves with a little white powder underneath.



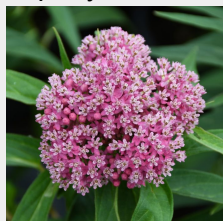


June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #3: Wisconsin Weeds Bingo - Weed Identification

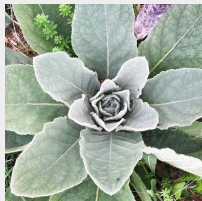
Milkweed

Look for: Big green leaves and pink puffy flowers.



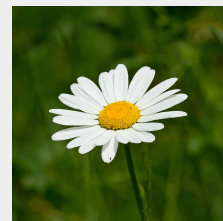
Mullein

Look for: Fuzzy leaves and tall stems with yellow flowers.



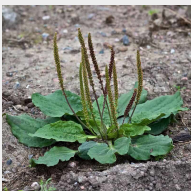
Oxeye Daisy

Look for: White flower with a yellow middle, like a big daisy.



Plantain

Look for: Flat leaves that grow close to the ground with tall skinny flower sticks.



Purslane

Look for: Juicy green leaves that grow low to the ground and small yellow flowers.



Queen Anne's Lace

Look for: White lacy flowers shaped like an umbrella.



Ragweed

Look for: Fern-like leaves and green flowers.



Shepherd's Purse

Look for: Tiny white flowers and heart-shaped seed pods.



Strawberry (Wild)

Look for: Three little leaves and tiny red berries



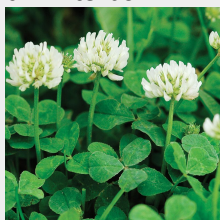
Thistle

Look for: Spiky leaves and purple puffy flowers.



White Clover

Look for: Three tiny round leaves and white ball flowers.



Yarrow

Look for: Feathery leaves and flat-topped clusters of tiny white (or pink) flowers.





June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #4: Cooking with Vegetables - Guacamole

Eating veggies from your garden or local farm makes them taste super yummy! It's fun to guess: Are we eating a root, stem, leaf, or fruit? Did it grow above or below the ground? Let's make yummy guacamole! **Tomatoes**, **onions**, **jalapenos**, and **cilantro** can grow in Wisconsin. **Avocados** grow in warmer places.



Instructions:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water. Make sure the food cutting area is clean too.
2. Gently rub produce under cool running water.
3. Cut avocados in half, remove the pit, and scoop pulp into a medium bowl.
4. Mash avocado pulp with a fork and mix in the remaining ingredients.
5. Stir to combine. Serve with raw vegetable sticks or baked tortilla chips.

Ingredients:

- 3 avocados (ripe)
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 Roma tomatoes (diced)
- 1/4 cup red onion (chopped)
- 1/2 jalapeno pepper (chopped)
- 1/4 cup cilantro (fresh, chopped) or 2 teaspoons dried cilantro
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Notes:

1. If you want extra spice/heat, include the jalapeno seeds. If you want less spice/heat, remove the jalapeno from the recipe.
2. You can also use a food processor to mash the avocado and mix ingredients.

Let's Reflect:

How are the flavors different from your own family recipes?

How are the flavors the same as your own family recipes?

What was the most challenging part when cooking the recipe?

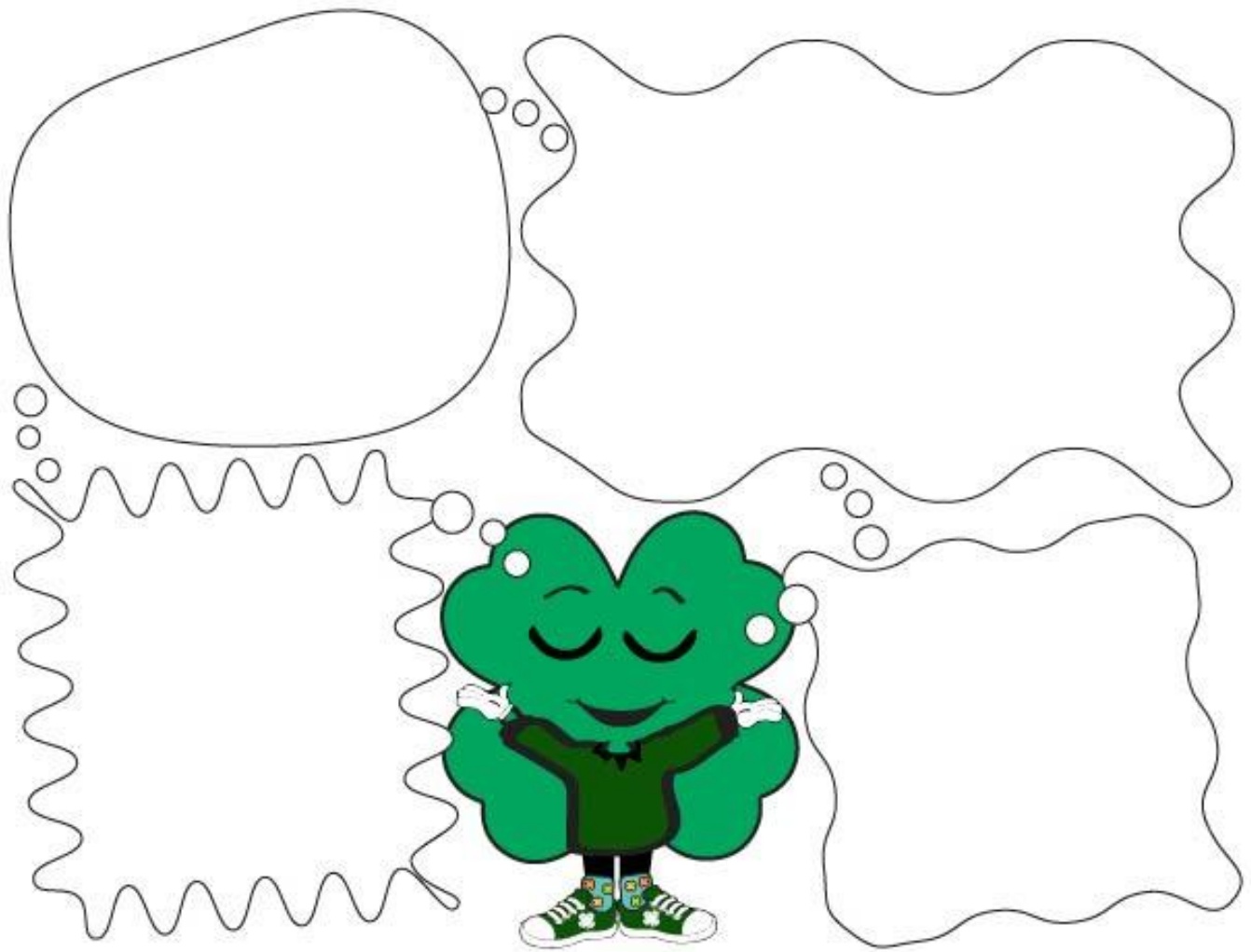


June/July Lesson: Growing and Gardening

Activity #5: Gardening to Give

Gardening is a great way to give back to the community. Sometimes gardens will produce extra food that can be shared with others. Flowers grown can brighten someone's day. Have you thought about the ways you can share what you have learned about growing and gardening with others?

Help Chris Clover brainstorm ideas of how to give back to the community through gardening. Fill in each thought bubble below with a new idea. If you get stuck, ask an adult for their ideas or to help you search online for ideas.



The Wisconsin 4-H Movement



Reflection: Do | Apply | Reflect

What was your favorite activity and why?

What is your favorite recipe with vegetables from the garden?

Draw a picture or write about one of the activities you did to learn about growing and gardening.

Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn Counties

CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP

Open to ALL youth who have completed K-2nd Grade

4-H and community youth welcome

EVENT DATE

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 19TH
9AM-3PM**

**HUNT HILL
NATURE CENTER**
N2384 Hunt Hill Rd
Sarona, WI

COST:

\$20

**PER
PERSON***

**scholarships available if needed*

- New Friends
- Games and Camp Songs
- Learn about Busy Beavers and Feathered Friends
- Lunch/Snacks provided
- Crafts
- and More!

Registration opens June 15
<http://wi.4honline.com>



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