



2024 Youth Gardening Contest Guide

The 2024 Youth Gardening Contest has three age groups:

5 and under **Ages 6 to 11** **Ages 12 to 17**

We want you to have **FUN**, to **TRY** something new and different for you, to **LEARN** more about gardening, and to **GROW**. You have five sections to choose from and you may enter as many sections as you wish, but only one entry in each section. Each section has three required phases.

Send a large-format digital photograph of the youth with their projects **from each phase** to goafortwayne@gmail.com. Tag each photograph with the youth's name and age.

Youths will pick out all their own seeds and plants. Each section has its own report to send to Youth Gardening National Chair, Cheri Kessen at goafortwayne@gmail.com or 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784.

The contest ends OCTOBER 15, 2024.

SECTION 1: PUMPKIN OR GOURD Pumpkins and gourds come in all kinds of colors, sizes and shapes. Ask yourself a question, then find the answer through gardening. Maybe compare two or three seeds of the same kind but different brands. Just have **FUN** growing a pumpkin or gourd. Then decorate or carve it.

SECTION 2: SUNFLOWER Sunflowers grow in different sizes and colors. **EXPERIMENT!** Plant your seeds in different places in your yard or in different soils to find the best home for your flower to grow. Can you figure out what is different about your sunflower and how it reacts to the sun?

SECTION 3: CONTAINER GARDENING This is for small spaces. Maybe you grow just one tomato plant in a pot on the deck, or an herb on a windowsill, or a fairy garden in a dish, or potatoes in a bucket or burlap bag. **LET YOUR IMAGINATION GO WILD!** Be sure your container has drainage holes and is a good ratio for pot to plant. It can be an indoor or outdoor plant.

SECTION 4: FAVORITE FLOWERS Visit a store that sells seed packets and look at the huge variety of flowers waiting for you! They can be indoor or outdoor plants. **PLANT** a mixture of different colors, edibles, seasonal, etc., or all the same flowers (No sunflowers; they have their own section for this contest.). They could be tubers, bulbs, cuttings, rhizomes, etc. They don't have to be seeds.

SECTION 5: PERFECT PLANTS **GROW** your favorites or something you have never heard of, like watermelon radishes, rattlesnake pole beans or multi-colored carrots. Have fun growing kohlrabi, cheddar cauliflower, purple top rutabaga or parsnips. Can you find something strange, unique or even weird to bring in from your garden? Go on a fun search to see what you can find!

Find this form and other Youth Gardening news and ideas at gardenersofamerica.club.