

Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers Vegetable Gardening Award Instructions



After you complete the application, print it for judging on the county level. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

The county contest will be judged by the agriculture or family and consumer sciences county agent. County winners compete for awards in the state contest. State contest will be judged by the MSU consumer horticulture specialist.

- Garden period: January 1–December 31 of current year
- Deadline for submission at county level: January 15 of year after garden period
- Deadline for submission at state level: March 1 of year after garden period

State winners must wait 3 years before entering the contest again. The Vegetable Gardening Award will be announced at the MHV State Council meeting in May.

Objectives

- To improve gardening skills
- To develop garden record-keeping skills
- To encourage applicants to share their knowledge with others
- To introduce applicants to new vegetables, varieties, and gardening practices
- To develop a record or history of the garden for future reference and improvement

Instructions

Please read this document and follow all instructions for completing and submitting the award application.

The applicant must grow a vegetable garden and is encouraged to use resources on extension.msstate.edu, especially Publication 1091 *The Garden Tabloid*.

The garden area must be a minimum of 400 square feet. (For example, the layout could be 20 feet by 20 feet.) You must plant at least five different vegetables.

Print and use the Direct Seeding Record, Transplant Record, and Harvest Record Form on pages three and four to hand-record your garden information throughout the season. Make a copy of the Harvest Record Form for each type of vegetable you plant. Then input your information into the MHV Vegetable Gardening Award Application Excel workbook, found at <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/mhv-vegetable-gardening-award-application-instructions>.

How to Use the MHV Vegetable Gardening Award Workbook

You can either download the MHV Vegetable Gardening Award workbook to use on your personal computer or complete the workbook using a computer at your county Extension office. To download the workbook, go to <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/mhv-vegetable-gardening-award-application-instructions>. To complete the workbook at your county Extension office, take your handwritten sheets there at the end of the gardening year and complete the workbook.

Narrative Summary

Your narrative summary is worth 40 points during judging. You should tell about your gardening experiences briefly and in your own words. You could include things like type of soil, time and method of soil preparation, use of fertilizers, the garden plan, weather data, information on new vegetables you grew, and insect and disease control. In addition, you could explain how you used your vegetables. Most importantly, tell what you learned from this project. Be specific, but limit your narrative to 500 words.

Your narrative will be judged according to your thoroughness, which is worth 20 points, and your objectives met, also worth 20 points.

Instructions for using the Excel Workbook

Download the workbook to your computer and open it in Excel. Simply click on each sheet at the bottom of the workbook, and fill in the blanks.

Use the tab key to move to the next cell in a sheet. This moves the cell to the next open cell to the right. To move down a column, press the enter key.

Be sure to save the workbook often as you are entering data. At the start of each year, save the file with a new name, such as "2019 MHV Garden Record Award" or something similar.

There are three sheets in the workbook on which you *should* enter data:

- **Direct Seeding Record.** As you go through the year, enter the vegetable and variety combinations you plant and the seeding dates for each combination. This is only for direct-seeded plants.
- **Transplant Record.** Similar to the Direct Seeding Record, this sheet is intended for those vegetable/variety combinations that are transplanted into the garden. Simply record each date a vegetable/variety combination is transplanted into the garden as you go through the year.
- **Harvest Record.** First, type each vegetable/variety combination at the top of each column. Then, each time a vegetable is harvested, record it in the column below. Record the harvest date, amount, and unit of measure (ounces, pounds, pints, etc.). Simply record these harvests as you go through the year.

There are two sheets in the workbook on which you *should NOT* enter data:

- **Harvest Summary.** This sheet will add up all the harvests of each vegetable/variety combination on the Harvest Record Sheet. You do not have to add up the harvest. Do not enter anything on this page. Simply print the sheet to list the total amount harvested for each vegetable/variety combination.
- **Info.** Do not modify this sheet in any way. The data on this sheet is used on the Harvest Record and Harvest Summary to calculate total amounts.

Be sure to save the Excel workbook every time you add data to the workbook. This workbook should work in any version of Microsoft Excel since 1997.

When you are done, print the application and submit it to the county office. Also take or email a copy of the workbook with your data. This must be done by January 15.

Forms

Use the forms on pages 3-4 to hand-record your garden information. Transfer this information to the Excel spreadsheet. Do not submit these handwritten sheets with your application. These are for your records.

If you need assistance from an Extension employee to enter data, please be considerate of their time. Schedule an appointment at least two weeks before the January 15 entry deadline.

MHV Vegetable Garden Award Scorecard	
<i>For use by judge only.</i>	
Level (circle one):	county state
MHV member	_____
Judge	_____
Record-keeping (40 points).....	_____
Seeding _____	
Transplanting _____	
Harvesting _____	
Criteria	
Completeness – 20 points _____	
Consistency – 20 points _____	
Photographs (20 points).....	_____
Criteria	
Details – 10 points _____	
Variability – 10 points _____	
Narrative (40 points).....	_____
Criteria	
Thoroughness – 20 points _____	
Accomplished Objectives – 20 points _____	
Total	_____

Direct Seeding Record

This sheet is only for vegetables that are directly seeded into the ground (for example, corn or beans). Print this sheet and hand-record your information. When you are finished, transfer this information to the Direct Seeding Record page of the Garden Award Excel Workbook.

Vegetable	Variety	Dates						Comments

Vegetable	Variety	Dates						Comments

Transplant Record

This sheet is only for vegetables obtained as transplants (for example, tomatoes and peppers). Print this sheet and hand-record your information. When you are finished, transfer this information to the Transplant Record page of the Garden Award Excel Workbook.

Vegetable	Variety	Dates						Comments

Vegetable	Variety	Dates						Comments

Harvest Record Form

Print this sheet as many times as needed for the number of vegetable/variety combinations you grow. When you are finished, transfer this information to the Harvest Record Sheet page of the Garden Award Excel Workbook.

Enter all the dates and amounts of harvest for each vegetable/variety combination. Report each harvest amount in the same unit throughout the season. For example, if you start recording tomatoes in pounds, use that unit of measurement throughout the season. If you harvest strawberries in pints, keep that consistent throughout the season. For large vegetables, such as watermelons, corn, cabbage, pumpkins, and winter squash, choose the # unit to represent the number you harvest.

Year		
Vegetable		
Variety		
Date of Harvest	Amount	Unit (circle one)
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #

Year		
Vegetable		
Variety		
Date of Harvest	Amount	Unit (circle one)
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #
		oz lb cup pint gal #

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