

**THE LINN COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS
GARDEN AT THE FAIR**

In an effort to help beautify the fairgrounds, The Linn County Fair Association is encouraging individuals and groups to “Garden at the Fair.” It is open to all residents of Linn County, including metro areas. The Fair will provide specific areas on the fairgrounds for garden plots. There are two different programs you can select for your garden.

For more information contact: sueabel@thelinncountyfair.com

GARDEN AT THE FAIR

This is an opportunity for individuals and/or groups to enjoy the art of gardening while performing community service to beautify the fairgrounds. You are allowed to have a sign in your garden during the fair to promote your organization, company, or group.

- 1. The Linn County Fair Association will supply a pre-selected area of the fairgrounds for you to plant your garden and a compost bin to recycle your garden waste. Water will be available for your use and bathroom facilities will be open on Saturdays.**
- 2. The fair will supply compost and mulch, if requested.**
- 3. You will need to bring your own tools (including garden hose), plants, fertilizer, etc.**
- 5. You will be starting from scratch – digging up the sod, tilling, planting, etc.**
- 6. You can either maintain the garden until the fair is over; or after it is growing, have the garden committee take over maintenance of the garden**
- 7. Some of the gardens will have slopes and proper erosion control must be used to prevent erosion from occurring.**
- 8. You must use plants appropriate for our USDA planting zone.**
- 9. The garden must have at least two perennial plants.**
- 10. It must be an ever-blooming garden—spring thru fall there will be some plant/s blooming at any given time. You can incorporate vegetables if you want to companion plant, but the majority of the garden should be flowers. This is a beautification project for the fair. If vegetables are planted, you must harvest them at the appropriate time.**
- 11. Organic gardening methods are encouraged, but not required. There will be a separate prize for organic gardens.**
- 12. A Garden Journal will be displayed with each garden so the judges and public can read about the garden. [It will also be used next year when planning for each particular garden.] Photos can be included and are encouraged.**

Each book must contain:

- A. The name of the garden (if any) or the type of garden (butterfly garden, herb garden, native Iowa**

plants, etc.)

- B. The name of the organization that planted the garden. List all members involved in the project.
- C. Describe what method you used to prepare your soil and any amendments that were used.
- D. Include a drawing of the design of the garden identifying each plant.
- E. List a description each plant grown in the garden. This should include:
 - a. The botanical name of each plant, along with the variety name, if available
 - b. Where the plant was purchased, found (if transplanted from an area in the wild), or the donor (family/neighbors garden, a sponsoring garden center, nursery, etc.)
 - c. Whether it is an annual or perennial, perennial grown as an annual, and whether it will self-seed
 - d. Whether it is native to Iowa
 - e. The flowering time
 - f. If you used companion planting, why the plants were planted next to each other, and what benefits they receive.
 - g. Your method of weed, disease, and insect control. List the problem and what you used to solve it (either the chemical used or the organic method used including recipes where appropriate).
 - h. A summary of what you have learned during this project.

13. Garden accoutrements (edging, fencing, statuary, garden signs, etc) can be used.

14. Be considerate of your neighbor and don't plant trailing or climbing plants unless you can train them to stay within your garden plot. When the grounds are mowed, the mower will go right to the edge of the garden plots and may mow over plants if they are not contained within the garden border. You may need to trim the grass from the borders of your garden before the fair and judging.

15. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories (a garden can win in only one category with the exception of Best of Show and Best Journal):

- A. Best Children's Garden (up to age 19)
- B. Best Use of Native Plants*
- C. Best Theme Garden
- D. Best Organic Garden
- E. Most Whimsical Garden
- F. Best of Show –selected from all gardens
- G. Best Garden Journal– selected from all gardens

*A list of plants native to Iowa can be obtained by emailing: sueabel@thelinncountyfair.com

**GARDEN at the FAIR
Official Registration Form
Due by April 1, 2009**

NAME (individual or group) _____

ADDRESS _____

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

CONTACT PERSON (if group) _____

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

SIZE OF GARDEN PREFERRED (circle one)

Small (less than 50 sq. ft)

Medium (50-100 sq. ft.)

Large (over 100 sq. ft.)

SUNLIGHT REQUIREMENT PREFERRED (circle one)

Shade

Morning sun

Afternoon sun

Full Sun

You must make prior arrangements to receive compost and mulch. All plants become the property of the Linn County Fair Association.

I have read the above statement and agree to all terms

SIGNATURE