



# Gardening

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.  
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2022 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Do the following:

- a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards associated with gardening and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.


- b. Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while gardening, including cuts, scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, anaphylactic shock, heat reactions, and reactions from exposure to pesticides and fertilizers.

cuts


scratches


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puncture wounds


insect bites


anaphylactic shock


heat reactions


reactions from exposure to pesticides and fertilizers.


2. Do the following, and discuss your observations throughout the process with your counselor:

- a. Grow six vegetables, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through harvesting.

From Seeds:


From Seedlings:

- b. Grow six flowers, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through flowering.

From Seeds:


From Seedlings:

You may want to keep a record of your observations here:


3. Give the nutritional value of the following:

a. Three root or tuber crops.

1.		
2.		
3.		

b. Three vegetables that bear above the ground.

1.		
2.		
3.		

c. Three fruits.

1.		
2.		
3.		

4. Test 100 garden seeds for germination.

Determine the percentage of seeds that germinate.

Explain why you think some did not germinate.


5. Visit your county extension agent's office, local university agricultural college, nursery, or a botanical garden or arboretum. Report on what you learned.


6. Explain to your counselor how and why honeybees are used in pollinating food crops and the problems that face the bee population today.


Discuss what the impact to humanity would be if there were no pollinators.


7. Identify five garden pests (insects, diseased plants). Recommend two solutions for each pest. At least one of the two solutions must be an organic method.

	Pest		Solution	Organic?
1.		1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
		2.		<input type="checkbox"/>
2.		1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
		2.		<input type="checkbox"/>
3.		1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
		2.		<input type="checkbox"/>
4.		1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
		2.		<input type="checkbox"/>
5.		1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
		2.		<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Do ONE of the following and record weekly observations. Discuss the results of your project with your counselor:

- a. Build a compost bin and maintain it for 90 days.
- b. Build a vermipost bin (worm compost bin) and maintain it for 90 days.
- c. Build a hydroponic garden containing three vegetables or herbs, or three ornamental plants. Maintain this garden through harvest or flowering, or for 90 days.
- d. Build one water garden, either in a container (at least 12 by 6 inches and 6 inches deep), or in the ground as a small, decorative pond no larger than 6 by 3 feet and 24 inches deep. Maintain the water garden for 90 days.
- e. Prepare a honey super for use on a hive or colony. Remove a filled honey super from the hive or colony and prepare the honey for sale.

Week Observations:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.  
 You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.