

GARDENING

As my husband is a fisherman this quote has stuck in my head, "The hours a man spends fishing are not counted against his life." I would paraphrase it this way, "The hours a woman spends gardening are not counted against her life." My mother and father were avid gardeners. He died at age 90 and she died at age 97.

Some of my earliest childhood memories are walking through their friends' gardens.

Katie asked me to talk about 5 minutes on gardening. So here are some hints:

1. Select the correct plants for your gardening conditions: Shade loving plants in the shade, sun lovers in sunny locations; consider acidity requirements.
2. "Room to grow." (Dogwood trees are NOT foundation plants.) Check the ultimate size of each plant, especially trees before planting. (Capitol grounds are good example of overcrowding.)
3. Share your plants. It is wonderful to walk into your garden and remember long-gone friends when you see plants they have given you flowering as the friendship did.
4. Try something new every year and keep a record of your successes and failures, but do give perennials time to become established.
5. When plants become crowded be sure to divide them at the correct time (and share).
6. Prune shrubs that flower before the first of June immediately after flowering and those flowering after the first of June in early Spring Remove 1/3 each year to keep vigorous.
7. TALK to your plants.

This quote is from Miss Ima Hogg of Houston, Texas. "A love affair with Nature is a rewarding experience. It gladdens the eye and replenishes the spirit...neither rainfall nor feeding can nourish plant life and flowering things like a gardener's words of praise and love."

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Invite birds to your garden. Their lively antics and beautiful songs will be your reward.

One final quote which I am sure you have all heard.

“The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the bird for mirth,
One is nearer God’s heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.”