

GARDENING TIPS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON

With all of us practicing distancing and self isolation at home during these past six weeks I have noticed on some of my walks with Daisy how some of my neighbours are trying to keep busy. In late March and early April, I would often see my neighbours out picking up sticks and branches from their lawns that had come down during the winter. Once that was done, I would see many neighbours get out their rakes and pick up those piles of leaves that had gathered since the fall. Once the leaves were done, I saw them begin to rake the grass in their front lawns. I have to admit that many of my neighbour's lawns are looking really good at the moment (my lawn is not one of them).

This past week I have noticed that many of my neighbours have now brought in loads of topsoil for their gardens too. The timing for this is about right as we are at the last weekend of April and May is almost here. The next step will be planting. Usually in May we see the garden centers filled with people buying plants and bushes. I am not sure if our garden centers will all be open in May with the current reality but if they are many people will be anxious to start planting.

Seeing all these signs of my neighbours making preparations for the eventual planting of flowers and gardens reminded me of something I was given by one of my church members at our last Bible study before we had to shut down due to Covid-19. What I was given was a poem entitled Gardening Tips.

The person who gave me the poem acknowledged when they found this poem it gave no mention or reference as to where it came from or who wrote it. Hopefully you will find the poem as intriguing as I did:

GARDENING TIPS

Plant 4 Rows of Peas

Prayer, Perseverance, Politeness, Purity

Plant 3 Rows of Squash

Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, Squash Indifference

Plant 3 Rows of Lettuce
“Let us” Be Faithful to God
“Let Us” Be Unselfish Toward Each Other
“Let Us” Love One Another

And Finally, Turnips
“Turn Up” for Church
“Turn Up” With a Smile
“Turn Up” With a Faith-Filled Attitude.

We often use the analogy of how God plants seeds of faith in our hearts as we read and hear the stories and promises in the Bible. As we approach this new season of planting, this poem reminds us of godly attributes that we need to keep planting in our hearts and in our lives. Maybe you have already grown some of these attributes in your heart or perhaps some still need to be planted.

This is a season in our lives when we definitely have the time to begin planting these things. As we read about each of these attributes, having them bloom within us will make us more pleasing to ourselves, to others and to God. So, take the time to plant some of these attributes during this season of waiting. Be *prayerful and patient* as encouraged with planting the “row of peas. “*Squash*” any desire or hesitancy not to grow in these ways. “*Let us*” realize it is for our betterment so that God can use us in different ways. And even though we cannot “*turn up*” for church right now, turn on your computer each Sunday and listen in faithfully to our services on-line to see what new seeds God will plant in your heart that week.

As I write this, my neighbours are still moving topsoil onto their gardens. Soon I expect to see them begin planting. As believers, our planting season is now and always. May you use these “Gardening Tips” from the poem provided and let God begin to make these qualities bloom in you.

Blessings,
Rev. Dean Adlam