



How to have a Fabby Garden... Part Deux!

Did you read my sermon about healthy soil in last year's catalog? That's good, because it's the most important step for creating a fabby garden (if you missed it, visit our website for more "Tips from Annie").

Now for this year's totally excellent tip: **Go out into your garden!** Every day if you can. Yes, every day! It does seem beyond simple, yet most folks

rarely do it. I know – I really know – we're all so ridiculously busy. But oh! The THINGS YOU WILL SEE, THE THINGS YOU WILL LEARN! The problems you'll nip in the bud!



Here's a very short list of some of the reasons I find it oh so good to visit my backyard every day.

- * I can pull a few weeds and catch them before they flower and beget zillions more.
- * I can wake up slowly, enjoying a little early morning peacefulness as I hand-water any areas that look too dry.
- * I can squash a snail or slug and sprinkle a bit of Sluggo before they ruin a plant.
- * I can cut a little bouquet for my bathroom to enjoy while I'm brushing my teeth.
- * I can see an emitter that's been knocked over by the dog and prevent a plant or two from dying of thirst.
- * I can watch a Monarch caterpillar shed its skin to reveal its fantastically beautiful chrysalis.
- * I can move a self-sown "volunteer" to just the right spot for a better future.
- * I have the time to closely observe the bloom seasons, habits and heights of my plantings making me a better, more knowledgeable gardener every year. When I see a harmonious combination, I feel inspired to conjure up new and prettier ones for the future.

And best of all – it's good for us! Watching our own versions of the seasons coming and going keeps us anchored to our own little piece of earth and to the present moment. It's a daily dose of nature, quiet and contemplation in a world that's, well, too hustle and bustle for most of us.

Now that we have achieved our daily dose of nirvana (hee-hee!), let's use our serenity to segue into the subject of ... weeds!

I think weeds are a good thing. I ask you: What gets us out into the garden (and down on our knees) more often than weeds! I like to think of it as the "Power of Positive Weeding." What results you'll receive in such little time! Would it be that you could rid all the persistant peskiness in the rest of your life with just one afternoon and a little elbow grease? You're preventing future toil too. Those weeds you're pulling today will



never set seed and you'll never get so overwhelmed you'll have to hire "yardcare" people to do it for you. It's like money in the bank! Woo-hoo!

Plus, what starts out like drudgery usually turns into pleasure. You're outside enjoying the weather, even if it's cold, deeply breathing the fresh air. You're finished in much less time than you imagined, and more than likely you've set about making things prettier – moving a pot here, tying up a vine on a trellis there. You feel empowered to take out that bush you never liked and now you've created a vacuum full of possibility! Ideas grow and off to the nursery you go for a fun-filled afternoon of new floral opportunities!

Annie

