



FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES - Skit 1 “The Gardener and the Soil”

Production Notes

Summary: Callers call in with their gardening questions to speak to a gardening expert. Questions and answers can be related to our spiritual lives.

Characters: Emcee
Shaneil Sperry, Gardening Expert on a call-in radio show
Call er#1` “Mary” - new gardener
Caller #2 “Laura” - heavy accent, some language difficulties

Setting: Chair and phone for Caller #1 and Caller #2. The gardening expert, Shaneil Sperry sits at a desk with her phone. Decorate with plants.

Timing: 5-7 minutes

SCRIPT

Emcee: Good evening listeners. Welcome to WGod’s airing of tonight’s “GET PLANTED” broadcast with our very own master gardener and horticultural growth expert, Shaneil Sperry! Tonight’s broadcast is coming to you live from our studios at Peachtree Plaza, located smack-dab in the middle of Plano, Texas. We’ll be taking your calls and your gardening questions and quandaries. Our show is sponsored by Ferti-Gro--become the envy of your neighborhood by using the product you need for a healthy lawn and garden! Ferti-Gro comes in convenient liquid or granules.

Emcee: We have a first-time caller, Mary, on the line and she’s got a gardening question tonight. Mary, you’re our first caller tonight.

Shaneil: Good evening, Mary. Thanks for your call.

Mary: Hi, Shaneil. I’m so nervous. I’ve been listening to your show and finally got the courage to call in.

Shaneil: Well, I’m glad you called. How does you garden grow, Mary?

Mary: Well, funny you should ask. At the moment, quite contrary. I’ve just moved the north Texas area, and I think I want to work on my yard and start a garden.

Shaneil: Well, what condition is your yard in now? Do you have a lot of shade? Weeds? And

what are you wanting to plant?

Mary: The front yard grass is patchy and brown, but the area where I'd like to start a vegetable garden in the back is unbelievable. I've never seen a patch of earth like this. It reminds me of clay--a rocky clay. I can hardly put my shovel in. And the weeds in the back yard have these weird thorns. Will I be able to get anything to grow in that?

Shaneil: Mary, for the front yard, you may be able to simply add Ferti-Gro to get that healthy green yard you want. Little plug for our sponsor. But the back yard will need some work. First thing you need to do is check the "beneficial nematode" count.

Mary: My bene...what?!!

Shaneil: Beneficial nematode. We'll get to that later, Mary. But first, to answer your question, yes, you can grow a very prosperous garden in our unique Texas soil. You will just need to choose the best location in your yard and diligently prepare your planting area before sowing your seed.

Mary: What makes one location in the yard better than another?

Shaneil: Again, it depends on what you are trying to grow.

Mary: Well, I'm a beginner, so I was thinking I would just begin with tomatoes. That shouldn't be too difficult, should it?

Shaneil: Every garden takes effort if it is going to produce, Mary. The condition of your soil is key. If you plant in this Texas clay or in rocky soil, the plant will not be able to take root easily. And those thorns concern me. They will choke the life out of anything, especially young, fragile seedlings.

Mary: Sounds like it's hopeless?

Shaneil: No, no. It's never hopeless. You may want to start with a soil test kit, which you can get from 1-800-Ferti-Gro. Little plug for our sponsor there, folks. The soil test will show you the properties of your soil before you get too far into your project. To know how to improve it, you must first know its deficiencies.

Mary; *(moan)* That sounds like so much work...

Shaneil: Well, Mary Contrary--if you just want to dig a hole and plop down a tomato plant that you picked out at Walgreens, you can do that, but there's no guarantees you will get tomatoes. Those tomato roots are fragile and can be choked before you even see any tomatoes. And by the sounds of your soil, that's not unlikely. You might even get lucky and get a few skimpy tomatoes out of it. But if you want a bumper crop of tomatoes--enough to make a big pot of my old Grandma Sperry's all-day spaghetti sauce, you need to pay close attention to your soil.

Mary: Ok, but shouldn't I start clearing rocks and pulling some weeds?

Shaneil: Of course, that would be helpful. Clear out as much as possible before taking your soil sample, so that the results will be accurate. And frankly, Mary, this part of the process is a commitment--get in there, pull weeds, loosen the soil and clear the rocks. But that's what gardening is--it's a commitment. A real gardener is not someone who just wants a fresh tomato on their dinner salad. A REAL gardener is committed to their garden like a mother is committed to her child--nurturing, feeding, protecting. You need to love what you grow, and see the potential for harvest, and then be patient to wait for it.

Mary: I don't know how to "mother" a tomato plant. Do I bottle feed it? Do I sing to it?

Shaneil: This week, start with the soil, Mary. One step at a time. Stay on the line and we'll get you a little more information about soil prep. Call me back when you are ready to plant, Mary, Mary, quite contrary! We will all be interested to follow you on this journey. Once the soil is ready, we'll be ready to have our discussion about beneficial nematodes. So be sure to call back next week.

Mary: Thanks, Shaneil. I'll be sure to dish all the "dirt" your way!

Emcee: We have a little time for a second called, Shaneil. I have Laura on the line.
Shaneil: Good evening, Laura. How can I help you?

Laura: Señor Sperry, I love your show and I listen every week and learn something new. I think I want to plant tomatoes, too--but I don't need spaghetti sauce. I have a much more important need--SALSA. I need salsa and lots of it. I have a fiesta at my house next week, and I need tomatoes to make a gallon of salsa.

Shaneil: Well, Laura, for a gallon of salsa you will need a lot of tomatoes. You will not have time to grow tomatoes before your party. I suggest you find a farmer's market. Laura, being a gardener takes a lot of patience. A gardener needs to patiently wait for the harvest, and it takes time and a lot of care to plant and grow a garden.

Laura: I don't have tiempo! You don't know my family and friends! They want fresh salsa, and they want it yesterday!

Shaneil: I understand. It just won't come from your garden--not this year! But thank you for listening, and consider having a garden in the future!

Emcee: Well, that's all for our show tonight, folks. If we've learned anything, we've learned that a gardener must have a wheelbarrow full of patience to wait for the harvest. We've learned the value of good soil, and the work it takes to prepare the soil. Hearts cannot be cluttered with rocks and thorns if you expect the Word to take root and grow. Join us next week with Shaneil Sperry's "GET PLANTED"!



A FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES - Skit 2 “The Seed and Cultivation”

Production Notes

Summary: Callers call in with their gardening questions to speak to a gardening expert. Questions and answers can be related to our spiritual lives.

Characters: Emcee
Shaneil Sperry, Gardening Expert on a call-in radio show
Caller #1 “Mary” - new gardener
Caller #2 “Laura” - heavy accent, some language difficulties

Setting: Chair and phone for Caller #1 and Caller #2. The gardening expert, Shaneil Sperry sits at a desk with her phone. Decorate with plants.

Timing: 5 minutes

SCRIPT

Emcee: Good evening listeners. Welcome to WGod’s airing of tonight’s “GET PLANTED” broadcast with our very own master gardener and horticultural growth expert, Shaneil Sperry! Tonight’s broadcast is coming to you live from our studios at Peachtree Plaza, located smack-dab in the middle of Plano, Texas. We’ll be taking your calls and your gardening questions and quandaries. Our show is sponsored by Ferti-Gro--become the envy of your neighborhood by using the product you need for a healthy lawn and garden! Ferti-Gro comes in convenient liquid or granules.

Emcee: We have Mary on the line and she’s got a gardening question. Mary, you’re our first caller tonight. What’s your question for Shaneil?

Mary: Hi, Shaneil. Remember me? I’m a beginner gardener, and I talked to you last week about starting a tomato garden.

Shaneil: I remember you, Mary. For those listeners just joining us tonight, Mary is new to north Texas and has some gardening challenges in her new yard. Mary, I gave you some homework last week. Did you get your soil tested? Were you able to get rid of the thorns and rocks and weeds? Did you notice if your soil has some beneficial nematodes?

Mary: That kept me busy this week, Shaneil. Yes I got my soil tested and it’s the perfect ratio of acid and alkaline for tomatoes. I have been busy clearing and preparing the soil and I have the blisters on my hands to prove it. And I have scars from the thorns

all over my legs. And I'll be honest, Shaneil, I've been thinking how easy it is to just go pick up tomatoes at Sprouts! This is a **lot** of work.

Shaneil: Mary, I never promised you a rose garden. Did the soil test reveal that beneficial nematode count? For ideal growing conditions, that count needs to be high.

Mary: The soil test reported a high number of beneficial nematodes, but I still don't know what they are and why I want them.

Shaneil: Beneficial nematodes are organisms that control pests in your soil such as grubs, aphids, fleas, and maggots. Beneficial nematodes are a gardener's friend!

Mary: Ugh! I'm glad I have them, then.

Shaneil: If you're finished complaining and you are still interested in pursuing your tomato garden, let's talk.

Mary: Well, I've invested a lot of time already, so I want to see my work pay off. And I want to experience this from seed to harvest. And I want to brag to my friends! How do I choose the right seed, and how do I get it to grow?

Shaneil: Great questions, Mary. Have you decided what variety of tomato you would like to grow?

Mary: I'm counting on your expertise, Shaneil, but I want big, impressive, red, juicy tomatoes, and a lot of them!

Shaneil: Oookay. Why don't we start off with Big Beefeater Hybrid Tomatoes? I think that seed will yield tomatoes that you like--extra meaty with home-grown flavor. If you are going to grow them from seed, you need to order quality seeds from a reputable distributor like Burpees. Once you get the seeds, they will need special care and handling.

Mary: And by special care and handling you mean dig a hole, drop the seed in, water it and watch it grow and wait for those luscious tomatoes to appear?

Shaneil: Oh, no. When you get your seed, store it in a cool dry area to protect its germination potential. Then you want to add seed starter mix to the soil, mix it thoroughly with warm water and let sit overnight before putting the seed in. When you do plant the seed, that will help the seed take root, if you add warmth and moisture.

Mary: Oh, brother. Do I really need to do all of this?

Shaneil: No Mary, you don't. Just grab that Sprouts flyer, and go shopping. But if you are going the seed route, you need to do everything you can to make sure the seed get implanted and takes root in the soil. The root system is so important for a healthy plants. Your good quality soil, good seed, tender care at the beginning will result in healthy germination and a hardy root system. Mary that almost guarantees tomatoes in six to eight weeks.

Mary: Six to eight weeks!

Shaneil: We're growing tomatoes, Mary--not impatiens. Get it? Impatience?

Mary: Ok, you're funny, but I'm not laughing. Again you've given me a lot of homework.

Shaneil: Stay on the line, and we'll get you more information about the Burpee seed catalog. Call back and let me know how it's going.

Mary: Thanks, Shaneil. I will.

Emcee: Do we have time for a second caller? I have Laura on the line and I'm not sure what her question is....

Shaneil: Hello, Laura. You have a question today?

Laura: Si, Señor Sperry. I am confused. I have toads in my yard, but they aren't beneficial at all. The are not doing me no good.

Shaneil: Your question is about toads?

Laura: Si. I don't want them in my yard. They're ugly and they make rude croaking noises at night, and I don't like when they jump around. What should I do? Didn't you tell that last caller that she needs toads in her garden? Give her my address--she can come take some for her garden.

Shaneil: Oh, you are confused, Laura. We have been talking about beneficial nematodes, not hopping, croaking toads. You may need to talk to an exterminator about your hopping toad infestation.

Laura: So Mary can't use my toads? Okay, gracias, Señor. If you ever need a toad, you have my name and number. Adios!

Shaneil: Adios, Laura.

Emcee: Well, that wraps up a very interesting show today. If we've learned anything, we've learned that once we have prepared our soil, the seed needs to get firmly implanted in order to sprout and grow. And we need to plant quality seed. There are many things that can grow in our hearts, but the Word of God implanted in our heart is what we can count on to not return void. We will have a harvest from that Seed! Thank you for tuning in tonight to Shaneil Sperry's "GET PLANTED." Tune in next week!



A FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES - Skit 3 “Growth Essentials and Abiding”

Production Notes

Summary: Callers call in with their gardening questions to speak to a gardening expert. Questions and answers can be related to our spiritual lives.

Characters: Emcee
Shaneil Sperry, Gardening Expert on a call-in radio show
Caller #1 “Mary” - new gardener
Caller #2 “Laura” - heavy accent, some language difficulties

Setting: Chair and phone for Caller #1 and Caller #2. The gardening expert, Shaneil Sperry sits at a desk with her phone. Decorate with plants.

Timing: 5 minutes

SCRIPT

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Emcee: We have our beginning gardener friend Mary on the line tonight and she’s got another gardening question. Mary, what’s your question for Shaneil?

Shaneil: Mary! It’s good to hear from you again. You’re getting to be an old friend.

Mary: It’s good to speak to you again, too, Shaneil. I was hoping I would be able to get through tonight, because you know this weather we’ve been experiencing lately. It’s hot and dry and miserable...

Shaneil: Welcome to our Texas summer, Mary. How does your garden grow?

Mary: Here’s my question--How can anything thrive in these conditions?

Shaneil: So, Mary, what stage of growth are your plants in right now?

Mary: Well, I have 12 seedlings that are about 8” tall. I have stakes ready to support the main stem when the plants get a little bigger. But I’m afraid they won’t get any bigger. They are just going to wither and die in this heat.

Shaneil: Mary, Mary, you have not need to worry. It sounds like things are going along just fine. Tomatoes love the sun and they won't mind the heat, as long as they are getting the water they need, which is about an inch of water per week.

Mary: But you know it hasn't rained in a month! Should I do a rain dance?

Shaneil: That's a thought...but NO, it is not the solution. You need to get water to that plant. If it isn't supplied naturally, then you need to provide it! Get that hose out. Water it morning and night if you have too. We don't want just a surface watering. We want water to get to the roots. But don't overwater it. Do you know what you'll get if you overwater it? Tomato blight fungus, that's what you'll get. And you don't want that! Trust me, Mary.

Mary: Check...it needs the perfect amount of water. Won't those beneficial nematodes help with fungus and blight?

Shaneil: Beneficial nematodes are working in the soil, not on the plant. If you water regularly, each branch of the plant will get the water and nutrition it needs to produce those precious blossoms that will result in tomatoes. As long as the main stem is supported by a sturdy stake, the plant should easily absorb the water and nutrients it needs. Make sure that each branch stays attached to the main stem. We don't want anything coming between the branch and the main stem that would prevent the nourishment from getting to the very tips of the branches. How do you feel about picking tomato horned-worms off your plants by hand, Mary? You need to examine your plants closely in order to see these worms before they chew through branches which will make them unfruitful.

Mary: I never thought it would be this hard to grow tomatoes. Fried green tomatoes are sounding pretty good right now. Seems like forever before I will get the tomatoes I'm hoping for.

Shaneil: Hang in there, Mary. You've invested a lot of time and effort, and it is going to pay off--I promise. Keep those plants moist, and remember the health of the branches depends on their strong connection to the main stem. Keep them stable and supported by stake. Remember when you're tying your plants to their support stakes, be sure to tie them firmly but gently. We want every branch to produce, and to do that, they need to stay attached to the main stem. You'll be enjoying your juicy red ripe tomatoes in no time.

Mary: Okay, I'll do my best. And I'll report in next week, Shaneil!

Emcee: Shaneil. We have another caller on line 2.

Shaneil: This is Shaneil Sperry.

Laura: Hola, Shaneil. This is Laura. You've been talking a lot about steaks today. I love steak with my tomatoes. I happen to have steaks in my freezer right now. But I'm

having trouble with my grill. It is not cooking my steaks evenly. Do you have any suggestions?

Shaneil: That is not a question for me, Laura--that's a question for the Grill Doctor, Laura. His call-in show come on later tonight.

Laura: Oh, a Grill Doctor! Is he approved in my network? What co-pay does he charge?

Shaneil: Stay on the line Laura. Someone will be able answer those questions.

Laura: Gracias, Señor Sperry

Emcee: Well, that wraps up a very interesting show today. If we've learned anything, we've learned the importance of water and nutrients getting to the roots of every plant, and those nutrients much reach every branch of the plant. For that to happen, every branch must stay firmly connected to the main stem that carries the nutrient. There are enemies that can disconnect the branch from the main stem. A gardener needs to be watchful. Every branch must abide in the vine in order to produce fruit. The heart must be inspected daily to keep those horned worms of sin from destroying that healthy connection. Thank you for tuning in tonight to Shaneil Sperry's "GET PLANTED." Tune in next week!



A FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES - Skit 4 “Pruning and Harvest”

Production Notes

Summary: Callers call in with their gardening questions to speak to a gardening expert. Questions and answers can be related to our spiritual lives.

Characters: Emcee
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Caller #1 “Mary” - new gardener
Caller #2 “Laura” - heavy accent, some language difficulties

Setting: Chair and phone for Caller #1 and Caller #2. The gardening expert, Shaneil Sperry sits at a desk with her phone. Decorate with plants.

Timing: 5 minutes

SCRIPT

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Emcee: We have our first caller, and we’ve all come to know Mary, the tomato lady. We’ve been following her weekly updates. What’s your question for Shaneil, Mary?

Mary: Hi, Shaneil.

Shaneil: You nothing if not consistent, Mary! How does your garden grow?

Mary: Shaneil, it’s thanks to you that my garden has made it this far. And guess what? My plants seem to be thriving. They’re leafy and bushy, and they have spread out everywhere.

Shaneil: Mary, it sounds like you have some untamed tomato plants. Tomato plants are prone to making too much leafy growth. When that happens, their nutrients are spread thin. We want those tomato plants of yours to produce lots of fruit--not lots of leaves. And that means we need to prune them and train them.

Mary: That sounds suspiciously like more time in the hot sun for me!

Shaneil: I told you that gardening was a commitment. Plants that spread themselves out like that may produce fruit, but it will be small and immature.

Mary: Why is that?

Shaneil: Because the nutrients that were supposed to go to the production of the tomato have instead gone to produce leaves. It's green and showy; It looks like it is thriving, but looks can be deceiving.

Mary: What can I do? Since you can't see my plants, how can you know what needs to be done?

Shaneil: Here's what I do know, Mary, Mary quite contrary. You have suckers.

Mary: Suckers?? Excuse me?

Shaneil: Those suckers are sucking the tomato-producing life out of your plant. You need to address this issue immediately. There are side shoots, or "suckers" growing between the main stem and the various branches. These suckers can appear great and leafy, but you need to pinch them off! That is a form of pruning.

Mary: Pinch them off? That sounds like it would hurt my tender plants.

Shaneil: Suckers are a continual problem, and you need to pinch off those sucker every time you see them. They are robbing you of your plentiful harvest.

Mary: Okay, I will be diligent with those suckers.

Shaneil: And there is another danger to those plants sprawling over the garden. I know you had stakes, but did you continue to encourage upward growth by tying them further to the stakes as the plant grew taller? By doing that you can keep the tomatoes off the ground. The tomatoes will ripen faster and be less prone to disease and insects if they are off the ground. Just this little extra care, pruning and training, will make a huge difference in the outcome! And have you seen tomato blossoms on your plants?

Mary: My plants have hundreds of blossoms, and little tomatoes are already showing up on some of them.

Shaneil: That's a good sign. But it is imperative that you prune and train the plants at this stage or else you will get fruit, but it won't come to maturity.

Mary: So I will go get rid of these suckers, and I'm good to go?

Shaneil: Well, you will have to keep a watchful eye on your plants. Suckers develop regularly, and don't forget, they will suck the nutrients that need to get to those developing tomatoes.

Mary: Okay, I understand. I'll stay on those suckers.

Shaneil: It won't be long until you begin to harvest those tomatoes, Mary. Go to our Facebook page, and share a photo of your plentiful harvest when it comes in! I'm proud of you Mary for your perseverance and patience. Your dedication to gardening is admirable, and maybe next year you can add peppers and beans and okra and

Mary: Uh...I'm gonna be good with tomatoes, Shaneil. Thanks for all your help.

Emcee: Shaneil, I have another caller on line two. I think you might know who it is...

Laura: Hola, Shaneil. It's me, Laura. I'm learning so much by watching your radio show each week. But I'm a little confused. I didn't know that we could grow suckers. If I plant a little dum-dum, how long until it grows into a Tootsie Pop tree?

Shaneil: Oh, Laura. Make sure you unwrap the dum-dum before you plant the sucker stick side up. I have found that the blue raspberry DumDums germinate more quickly and grow better in Texas than either cherry or green apple. Be sure not to over water, or they will get too syrupy and stick to everything. Good luck, Laura.

Emcee: Well, that wraps up a very interesting show today. If we've learned anything, we've learned plants need pruning and training to produce a harvest. Suckers suck the life-giving nutrients away from the blossoms and fruit. Pinching off suckers may seem painful, but it is the way to a more fruitful harvest. And a plant can't be allowed to grow its own way--it needs training in addition to pruning! Yes, a fruitful garden takes work and care, and the Gardener must provide pruning and direction to the growing plant. The plant doesn't know what is best--the Gardener must be in control--then fruitfulness is assured! Thank you for tuning in tonight to Shaneil Sperry's "GET PLANTED."