



A FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES “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

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 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?

Shaniel: 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.

Shaniel: 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, Shaniel!

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

Shaniel: This is Shaniel 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?

Shaniel: 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?

Shaniel: 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!