



## FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES “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  
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:** 5-10 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.

**Shaniel:** 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 your 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.

**Shaniel:** 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 Shaniel Sperry's "GET PLANTED"!