



A FRUITFUL GARDEN SERIES “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.
- Shaniel:** 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:** Ooookay. 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?
- Shaniel:** 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?
- Shaniel:** 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!

Shaniel: 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.

Shaniel: 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, Shaniel. 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....

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

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

Shaniel: 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.

Shaniel: 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!

Shaniel: 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!