



“We must cultivate our garden.”

– Voltaire, from *Candide: or All for the Best!*

<p>-----Tip #1-----</p> <p>WHAT DO YOU LONG FOR?</p> <p>endless blooming flowers? a tidy welcome as you approach your home? maybe some collards & blueberries? Everyone who shares your house and yard can have a voice, and compromise will enhance ownership!</p>	<p>-----Tip #2-----</p> <p>SURVEY YOUR DOMAIN</p> <p>most important from the p.o.v. of your future plants: you must scope out your yard’s sunlight and shade, soil quality and access to adequate water. Observe and note so that your plans will be successful.</p>
<p>-----Tip #3-----</p> <p>YOUR LIST VS. MY LIST</p> <p>choose the plants that ignite your passion — you won’t care for what you didn’t desire and don’t love. Look around — what draws your eye? what appeals to your senses and makes you WANT — then put it on your list.</p>	<p>-----Tip #4-----</p> <p>DO THE FIBONACCI!</p> <p>if anyone says, “plant in threes,” I’m throwing in my trowel! Here’s the math for plants: one on its own, complemented by two; two accompanied by three; three goes with five. 1:2, 2:3, 3:5, 5:8, 8:13 and so on (ask me, it’s NOT hard!)</p>
<p>-----Tip #5-----</p> <p>INVEST IN THE TORTOISE</p> <p>It’s a fact: some plants are just SLOW! and those should be your investment plants — buy them big (\$\$\$) and then surround them by all the speedy rabbits (no, not literally) those plants that seem to grow from 3” to 3’ in a month.</p>	<p>-----Tip #6-----</p> <p>BECOME A HORT EXPERT</p> <p>not all plants are equal — and hybridizers are actively giving you more choices every day! Here’s where a little homework will refine what you like into what you love: more blooms, better color, taller, shorter, or just <i>different!</i></p>
<p>-----Tip #7-----</p> <p>FRAME YOUR VIEW</p> <p>because you are not going to be spending all of your time out there in the garden, think about what you see when you look out your windows or perch on your porch. This is a picture you have painted with plants: frame it!</p>	<p>-----Tip #8-----</p> <p>START SMALL WITH A BIG PLAN</p> <p>there are many projects that are abandoned when enthusiasm has run out: break your big ideas into smaller pieces and allow yourself to create your design little by little. Rome wasn’t built in a day, blah, blah, blah... but, it’s true!</p>
<p>-----Tip #9-----</p> <p>IT’S NEVER OVER...</p> <p>ask any gardener — we love change almost as much as Mother Nature — and she often forces our hand: embrace mistakes, accept the challenges of the weather, pull it out and start over again — keep going to keep growing.</p>	<p>-----Tip #10-----</p> <p>SIT BACK AND ENJOY</p> <p>un-hunh! you forgot to put a chair out there. do it now! Cultivating your garden should never keep you from enjoying the fruits of your work.</p>