

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

Issue #1: Introduction

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It's true. I admit it. I'm a lazy gardener. I love being outside. I stroll around the back yard and think of what it could become with a little time and effort. I start mapping out a project plan with the tasks that I'd need to complete. Then the first mosquito of the evening shows up, and I have to go inside to pop dinner (courtesy of Orville Redenbacher).



I studied at the School of Good Enough. My gardens are not showcases like those we see on our club tours. The landscape "design" is not superior in any way. The lawns are a study in heterogeneous vegetation. But they're Good Enough. Not so disgusting that you'd spray it with Roundup and start over (well, maybe YOU would, but I'm not going to), but not so great that Better Homes and Gardens will be knocking at the door any time soon. Or even the MWGCM Tour Committee.

But I've learned a few things in my career as a Lazy Gardener. For instance:

- You CAN plant tomatoes and peppers in the same location year after year, even though nobody recommends doing it.
- You can get quite a few roses with a surprisingly small amount of fertilizer. And you can often get away without doing a lot of spraying for blackspot and mildew. (But you can't avoid spraying completely. Not if you want leaves on your rosebushes, which most people do.)
- You can also get away with not burying your hybrid tea roses.
- There are houseplants that can survive truly appalling indoor conditions.
- Indoor seed germination is not that hard, especially if you don't try to do anything exotic.
- It is not necessary to dig out all old stumps from old hedges, dead trees, etc.
- You do not need to dig all your cannas every fall. In fact, it's a bad idea to try to, especially after two or three years.
- Iris borers are particularly disgusting, and it's worth a little effort to prevent them.
- Not weeding too early can yield a bonus in volunteer plants. *Verbena bonariensis* comes to mind.
- Staking can be optional, if you just avoid planting anything tall.
- Slugs do not like dry conditions, so if you're lazy about watering, you're less likely to have holes in your hosta leaves. Hailstones are more difficult to control.
- Compost happens. With or without your active participation. Do not run kitchen scraps through your shredder.

As kids say these days, "Watch this space for more Lazy tips!"