

2023 Gardening Resolutions

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I am always very excited to start a New Year! All of the old calendars come off the walls, last year's planners are archived and it is time for a fresh start. For me, the new beginning that January brings, along with all of the seed catalogs in the mail, makes me excited to start planning my Spring Garden. This is the time of year when I dream of a lush garden with new and unique plants next to my tried-and-true plants, where the constraints of little to no rainfall and temperatures over 100 degrees do not yet enter the picture. Then suddenly - it is February and I am late planting seeds, then it is March and I am so busy that my garden does not get planted when it should and, here I am again, with a nice garden but not the garden that I was dreaming of in January. So, this year I am setting 2023 Gardening Resolutions. I do question whether it is a good idea to publish my resolutions in the newspaper for all to see, but "they" say for resolutions to work you must tell people so that they will hold you accountable!!! So, here goes:

Resolution #1: Start out ahead or at the very least start out not-behind

I do not know what your gardening space looks like, but mine is a mess! My tools are all thrown together and they have not been cleaned since the last gardening season. My tomato cages along with my stakes and gardening labels are thrown together. This year I am going to take the time in January to organize my gardening space. I am going to throw away all of the miserable gloves with holes in them and replace them with new gloves. It is time that I either repair the broken gardening tools or throw them away. Then I am going to clear off some surfaces so that when I decide to start my garden, it will not be overwhelming. I am hoping that if I can get this done before I start my seeds, then my gardening space will be a pleasant workspace. Perhaps that will encourage me to start gardening earlier and stay more attentive.

Resolution #2: Start working the soil in January

I am particularly bad at working my garden beds early in the year. This year I resolve to till up my garden beds in January. I acknowledge that not everyone tills their soil and that works for some gardens, but I have tried the no-till methods and for my garden, even with 12 inch raised beds, the Bermuda grass just takes over. I know that this is an important step in weed control and working in organic matter early in the year will make my garden much more productive. This

year I resolve to get out there and get busy preparing the garden beds. So far the temperatures in January are making it very manageable to work outside. We have already had multiple days of pleasant temperature, some with only mild wind.

Resolution #3: Be more mindful that gardening is a joy

I think that we are all so busy that sometimes our hobbies even become chores. That has certainly happened to me. So, I resolve to remember that my gardening tasks are for my enjoyment. Of course, there are occasionally time-sensitive tasks that need to be completed but for the most part gardening is my “me time.” I need to remember that I do not have to get whatever task completed before I move on to the next thing. Further, I should remember that I can take 15 minutes or 30 minutes to simply enjoy the garden. I need to take the time to admire the beautiful eggplant flowers and to enjoy the way different varieties of squash grow.

I hope that by sharing these resolutions in this article you are inspired to set some gardening resolutions for yourself. If you see me around, feel free to ask me how I am doing on carrying out these intentions!

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening. If you have any questions, you can call the Taylor County Extension Office at 325-672-6048 or email us at mgardeners@yahoo.com. We will do our best to respond to your questions. And as always, we hope that you will like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bigcountrymastergardeners>. And visit the Big Country Master Gardeners at www.bcmgtx.org for information and future events!