

Confession of a Lazy Gardener

As I was sitting on my front porch, I realized, I am a lazy gardener. I always thought I loved to garden, but now I realize I rather not *do* anything labor intensive. Instead, I like to find and watch for amazing tidbits that appear in garden settings. I will set upon a task, say clean out a vegetable bed of grasses and “weeds” and lo and behold a great tidbit will appear. A jumping spider. Of course, that means a trip to the house to get five different books so I can identify one spider. What does it like? Is it good for my garden? How and when does it multiply? What does it eat? Should I plant something special so it will stay?

A good hour is gone and my vegetable bed still is teeming with grasses and “weeds”. Ach, next I see a “weed” that I am not quite sure of and this means another trip to the house, maybe only four books this time, some lemonade and a lawn chair. Once again, I search for what the “weed” is, why it is there, what are its uses, and why should I remove it. I put the word “weed” in quotes because I have the firm belief that “weeds” are merely a state of mind. Truly, what IS a “weed”? A plant in a spot it is not supposed to be, but according to whom? Henbit, for example. It is listed as a weed but I for the life of me cannot figure out why? It does no harm. It grows without tending. It produces little purple flowers. Therefore, I decide I will just let it grow especially in my grassy areas. I will see which plant is stronger, the henbit or horseherb.

Meanwhile back at the vegetable bed, nothing has been done. By now it has warmed up, my lemonade is gone, and I see a delightful butterfly or as I like to call them flutter by. It lands, it suns, and it flits and flirts. Another trip to the house, more books to identify the visitor and the identification process begins. A Black Swallowtail. The caterpillars like dill and parsley and the adult butterflies like clover and thistle. With that, I start to make my list on what to plant in the spring because I like butterflies. I had better also learn what the eggs look like so in the future I will be more careful if I stumble upon them.

Now, most of the day has passed and my vegetable bed looks just the same but I know I have been “gardening” because I spent the day enjoying the outdoors and learn about some wonderful tidbits. Go out and do some gardening, enjoy.