

Planning and Garden Set-up

- Who planted the first garden? Genesis 2:8
- Did it just happen? No. It was carefully planned and crafted. The details are intricate and complex. Very well planned. Every thing in it had a purpose, a function, a place.
- Niche. What was the niche God created for man?
- Niche considers the plant or animal or man in relationship to everything around him. He is giving in some relationships, and getting in others, and in some it goes both ways.
- And when I consider these relationships, that is what most awes me about God's creation. Systems and webs. Wheels in wheels. The planning and design that went into all these connections is amazing, awesome.
- Now, we know that when God created man he said, "Let us make..." Genesis 1:26. The basic concept is that we are to image, to reflect, in our sphere what we see God doing in His sphere. What is God's sphere? What is our sphere?
- God is our Father, we are His children. Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, as beloved children
- One of the primary roles of parent and child is that of teaching and learning.
- Our granddaughter at play. Doing what she sees Mom doing. Observation.
- Practice/Engagement. Our grandsons planting potatoes.
- Teaching (which is really only sharing what was previously learned by observation and engagement).
- We learn gardening the same way. Observation. Practice. Teaching (classes, books).

Planning a garden: Considerations

- soil - almost any soil can be redeemed.
- water - you will want to have water close to your garden
- sunlight - need full sunlight. Check for full sunlight in winter.
- accessibility. Can you work easily, get tools and equipment in easily, take produce out easily?
- proximity to house. Out of sight, out of mind.
- microclimates, air drainage.
- what will you be growing?
- size, how much will you be growing?
- orientation.
- Layout - Beds vs Rows.

When choosing a garden site, just keep in mind that only rarely, if ever, will a garden site have all the desirable qualities that we are looking for. In most cases, we have to make some trade-offs. For example, on our farm, most of the fields that we cultivate are bottom lands, near a creek. They have some of the best soil on the farm, are close in proximity to our barn and my brother's living quarters, are easily accessible, and can be gravity irrigated from our spring fed pond up the valley. But, they are not ideal for winter growing since they are slightly north facing and are in a frost pocket. Never-the-less, we do grow winter crops in them.