

KPOV – *The Point*  
Gardening: Get Good at It  
“New Year’s Resolutions”  
January 4, 2022

I’m never sure whether I should laugh or cry when people ask about my resolutions for the new year. I recently found a ragged piece of paper in my files – a resolution list with the year in bold type and successive years crossed out. The items were untouched, though! Maybe I should accept that they’re more good wishes than resolutions. And maybe I should just keep aiming to be better, no matter what my past looks like.

I spend time writing lists like this every year. I’ve had my Central Oregon garden for almost twenty years and find a pattern – I judge my own garden against the glossy magazines, aiming high and worrying about not measuring up. Instead of aiming for perfection, I will resolve to accept ‘close enough’ in 2022.

Whether *you* call them resolutions or not, these five wishes every gardener, no matter their expertise, should embrace each year:

1. Don’t blame yourself for gardening failures. Mother Nature has her own plans, whether we recognize them or not. Be patient, look for research-based solutions, try again and learn from your experience. Both your garden and nature itself are very forgiving.
2. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. How else can we learn? Take advantage of the local extension service and the many publications higher education offers online. Google your question with the site filter of .edu or .gov and you’ll get good research-based advice. Our website has some links to great resources.
3. Try something new. This is almost second-nature. Have you ever met a gardener who didn’t want the newest of the new: the innovative tool or the most unusual hybrid? But what about trying something *really* new...like a new growing style or a completely new type of vegetable. Take a few classes, in person or online, and you might learn what state-of-the-art methods are being used at the university level. Ask some questions of the experts and you’ll be ready to break new ground right in your own yard.
4. Share your passion. We’ve all seen studies showing many of today’s gardeners started by learning from someone else. Can you be that mentor? Will you be the reason your son or daughter or grandchild serves homegrown vegetables to their family? Can you be the reason your neighbor plants patio containers for the first time? Would you enjoy sharing your time and knowledge with the community as a Master Gardener? Go to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/central/how-join> to register for the 2022 OSU Master Gardener training where you’ll receive 48 hours of intensive classroom training

followed by 48 hours of experiential learning. The link will also be in the transcript of this broadcast on our website, [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com).

5. Take the time to appreciate nature and remember that you're gardening for the birds, the bees and the butterflies (and the bats too!). One of the happiest benefits of a garden is enjoying the beautiful creatures who visit it. So, plan your flowers and vegetables with that in mind and then sit back and enjoy the show. The OSU publications you'll find on our website will take you step by step toward designing a pollinator-friendly garden this year.

Will *you* do resolutions this year? Mine for 2022 will be Better – better record keeping, better maintenance, better goals. I resolve to take better care of my current plants and any plants I buy. I intend to do a daily walkabout to check for garden problems and a weekly weeding session. This year I will be better at getting into the garden early enough to finish before the sun goes down. And I've promised (myself) to stop regularly and enjoy the work I've done and the wonder that is nature.

For answers to all your gardening questions, visit our website: [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com) and look for the OSU Publications on the left side bar. You'll find the transcript with resources for this broadcast under the KPOV tab on the orange bar. Or call the Master Gardeners at 541-548-6088. This has been Gardening: Get Good at It on KPOV's The Point.

#### Resources:

OSU Publications: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>

Master Gardener training: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/central/how-join>

Garden publications: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/topic/gardening>