

## **Crazy Quilt Gardening**

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Years ago I came across a story entitled The Parsley Patch. It described a garden where all the plants grew at will. No rows, or orderly placement; just random planting, perhaps like the underbrush in a deep forest or a wild flower meadow. There is barely room to step. To walk across this area one has to step very carefully. Just one step at a time, placing each foot in a precise manner, searching for the next small clearing. Just one step at a time!

Making a Crazy Quilt proceeds in much the same way, placing one piece of material in its place--repeating the process over and over--until the quilt is finished. Writing an article is like that, too; one word at a time, then a sentence, and until finally the story is complete. And in life, there's no way of telling ahead of time, what the outcome will be. It's just one step at a time.

Gardening is the ultimate in Parsley Patch living. We put down roots into the soil of a garden, not knowing where this will take us. For most of us, there is a plan; a general design we want to accomplish. But we don't really know where it'll go, or how it will evolve.

The soil, climate, ater conditions, sun or lack thereof, long winters, hot summers, all contribute to the success--or not--of our garden. We use what we have on hand--tools, knowledge, energy--to create a pleasant landscape--one step at a time.

Some simple differences exist between the quilt, the writing, gardening, and life. The quilt will soon be finished; this article will be completed and sent off. But our gardens and lives will never be finished.

That's the wonderment of the Parsley Patch Gardening life. It will never be finished. On and on we'll trudge; planting, watering, transplanting, weeding; one step at a time. All the while growing in our knowledge of gardening; developing patience and an understanding of the beauty that surrounds us.

The quilts, stories and gardens we leave behind are lasting. Those trees and bushes we planted will grow and provide shade, shelter, oxygen and food for birds, animals and ourselves. Carefully tended perennials, the row of raspberries, cherry and apple trees, the asparagus bed, the rhubarb and lilacs, will all continue long after we're gone.

The ideas, the inspiration we've been to others, the beauty and hope we've passed on will also last. And to think we've done it with just one step at a time!