

## Maple Knoll Village

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### GARDEN GROWN

As a child, I spent countless hours in our garden with my Father. It is not surprising that lifelong love of growing flowers and vegetables took root in me.

As I look back, many decades later, to what gardening has taught me, I realize there are life lessons I have learned beyond the garden borders.

These are a few I would like to share: for anything we plant, we have to provide the right environment for it to survive and grow.

We often have to research what we don't know. Perhaps on our own, or reaching out to another experienced gardener.

To get what we put in the ground to sprout and grow requires patience.

Sometimes, even when we do everything right, fickle nature does not cooperate.

It is either too hot or cold, too wet or too dry. Our plants may wilt and wither.

To be a gardener means that you have to accept that much is beyond our control.

On the other hand, how delightful a successful crop is- one we can share with friends, family.

In summer, it is good to take pictures of the garden so we can recall the sun and warmth when snow blankets the garden. In January's gloom, we can peruse seed catalogues and make plans for the next summer.

When we dig in the dirt, if we observe closely, we will certainly see nature's wonder. It is never far, we just need to look.

And finally, when we share our love of gardening with children, as my Father did with me, we plant memories that can inspire future gardeners for a lifetime.

WHEN WE GARDEN, WE GROW