

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

By Rod

This sketch was used at the end of a series on the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and uses the vehicle of the long running TV programme to illustrate the point of the growth that only the Spirit can bring.

CAST

<i>Bob Flowerpot</i>	<i>The presenter</i>
<i>Bill Waterbutts</i>	<i>Expert gardener.</i>
<i>Bunny Warren</i>	<i>Expert gardener</i>
<i>Bronwyn Trellis</i>	<i>Member of audience with 'problem' plant</i>

Bob Hello everyone, and welcome to Gardeners' Question Time. My name is Bob Flowerpot, and I will be in the chair this evening.

Bill I hope it's not a deckchair.

Bunny Or a sun lounger.

Bob Yes, thank you. That leads me to introduce our two experts who will be joining me on the panel. On the right is Bunny Warren.

Bunny Good evening.

Bob And on the left is Bill Waterbutts.

Bill 'Ullo.

Bob Before we start, I've asked our two experts to give us some tips based on their vast knowledge of gardening. What have you got for us Bunny?

Bunny Well mine is to do with vines. There is a saying that "A withered vine brings forth no fruit."

Bob You can't argue with that.

Bunny And so my tip is, "When you prune – prune hard". Be ruthless – and throw away the branches you have pruned.

Bob Thank you, Bunny. And what's your suggestion, Bill?

Bill Well mine is to do with sowing.

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- Bunny I didn't know you were an expert on dress-making as well.
- Bill Sowing seed. And there is an old proverb which says, "A man must put grain in the ground before he can cut the harvest".
- Bob Seems reasonable.
- Bunny It applies to women as well.
- Bill Anyway, my tip is, "When you are sowing seed, don't bother scattering it on the path – because all you will end up doing is feeding the birds".
- Bob OK, thanks for that, Bill. Well, now it's time for our first question. I believe it is from a Mrs Bronwyn Trellis of North Wales. Hello, Bronwyn.
- Bronwyn Hello everyone.
- Bob What's your question for our experts to consider?
- Bronwyn *[Producing plant in pot]* I've got this fruit tree you see, and it just doesn't bear any fruit. It's a dead loss.
- Bob No, I can see that. It's not in a great state is it? What do you reckon Bunny?
- Bunny Well, it's certainly got a lot of problems. Looking closely it looks to have Greenfly – and there's Mildew here.
- Bill I can see some Grey Mould, and I reckon it's also suffering from Honey Fungus.
- Bunny It is not in a good way. It looks to have Bacterial Canker and a nasty touch of Box Blight.
- Bill As well as Blackleg and Scab.
- Bob Aren't they the same thing?
- Bill Only if you are a member of a Trade Union.
- Bunny And feeling into the soil, I'd say it's got terrible Root Rot.

Bronwyn So is it completely beyond hope of recovery? Is it a tree that is naturally blighted?

Bill Not at all. The secret is always in the soil.

Bunny Too right. If you can get the roots well nourished the rest will follow.

Bronwyn So what would you recommend?

Bill I always swear by Miracle-Gro Multipurpose Fruit Compost.

Bunny I agree. Put some of that in your pot and the tree will bear fruit in abundance.

Bronwyn What sort of fruit can I expect?

Bill All sorts – apples, pears, lemons.

Bunny Kiwi fruit, raspberry, strawberries.

Bill Bananas, oranges, blueberries.

Bronwyn Wow! All of those. That really would be a miracle. That's cheered me up no end.

Bill,Bob & Bunny That's the spirit!

THE END