

## Nurturing Greenery

Gardeners get the closest to mimicking mother nature. These days due to the scarcity of land not everyone has the luxury of owning a garden. Hence, many don't even have the basic knowledge of gardening. I had always lived in an apartment like most kids these days. I seldom got my hands dirty and never saw an earthworm wriggle near a plant. I myself had never really care much about gardening up until now. This summer I went out to interview a gardener and learnt some gardening myself. I would like to share my story with you.

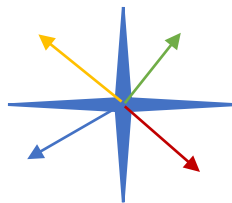
In my very own society a middle-aged pair, a brother and his sister hold the position of head gardeners for 20 years now. They told me that to them a plant was like a small baby, they liked nurturing it.

Problems like water scarcity, excessive heat and financial barriers were some of the challenges faced by them but despite that they had managed to create a wonderful garden full of various variety of flowers and fruits.

They used khurpi, khurdi, cutter and other such tools for the maintenance of the garden. Urea and DPA are the manures used for the plants. The basic skills of gardening include names and knowledge of most plants along with their method of propagation, grafting and maintaining the particular soil conditions required for each plant species. Apart from this gardening is also a test of your patience! since a few plants take more than a month to germinate.

They explained me a short science they use to determine what kind of plants should be planted where.

- If your garden is facing the south- east direction, **flowering and fruit plants** will grow well
- If your garden faces the north east direction, out-door plants, those that need a lot of sunlight will grow well e.g.- **people tree, banyan tree, mango tree** etc.
- If your garden faces south-west then it is most suitable for growing **indoor plants and delicate flowers**
- If it faces north-west direction then **succulents and cacti** will grow the best



After hearing this garden theory my interest in gardening sparked and I went to Krupa nursery and Pulo Deshpande garden. I also planted my very own people tree just outside the society gate.

Gardeners turn barren lands into beautiful gardens with vibrant flowers. If one only takes the time to notice the variety of skilled people around, she will notice that every person is special with their own unique sense of purpose.



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