

Muddy Gardens

Maybe it's just me or just my garden, but it's really muddy; the weeds are growing hastily, and I'd like some dry weather for a few days, long enough to clean up the weeds before my muddy garden looks even worse. Maybe I'm the only one in that dilemma, or maybe not.

We like rain - at the right time. However, we like some dry weather - at the right time. When those right times don't occur, we find ourselves a bit frustrated by muddy gardens and a few too many raindrops.

What do we do when we find ourselves in "wait" mode?

Wait Patiently

My garden doesn't seem bothered by the mud, but it does become a bit bothersome to me when I know what it could and usually does look like.

When we find ourselves waiting, we know we have to wait, but it's the patiently part that doesn't come easily. I've always found the words interesting in James where he says, "See how the farmers wait patiently for the spring and summer rains."

The point James makes is worth noting. The farmer waits patiently because he has no other choice. Likewise, when we find ourselves waiting, we benefit from realizing that, when we have no other choice, patiently waiting is the most productive form of waiting.

Pray for Guidance

Most of us don't spend a lot of time praying about our

garden, but when it's too muddy to weed, we have extra time to do something more productive.

"Wait" mode gives us opportunity and also encourages us to spend time asking God for guidance, for patience, for understanding. It's interesting how God uses circumstances to lead us to pray, to do what we probably should have done even sooner.

Time spent in prayer reminds us that God is still in control, that He has our situation under careful review and is prepared to act when the right moment occurs - something we easily forget.

Redirect Your Energy

I could stand at the edge of my muddy garden and mumble about the mud and the weeds, but, as we all know, that's not very productive.

When we can't do what we would prefer to do or when things aren't unfolding as we would like, we have the opportunity to move our energy to a different task. What's interesting is that, looking back, we often realize that redirecting and focusing on a different task enabled us to do what actually needed to be done.

Muddy gardens can be a bit frustrating, especially when we know we will have more work to do when the weather turns dry.

But before we allow a little mud to dampen our spirits, we do well to remind ourselves that this too shall pass, that muddy gardens and a few more raindrops aren't life-threatening, that they actually fall into the "it's no big deal" category.

Happy gardening - when it's fit to garden!

