

## **Gardening is a matter of perspective**

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Gardening is a matter of perspective, particularly the perspective of the person who is doing the gardening. And a matter of location!

Last week I mentioned that this was one of the worst years for gardening and at least for me it truly is. However, I had several readers email pictures and comments about this being the best year ever!

As always, I really appreciate your feedback and probably shouldn't have made such a broad stroke with the garden paint brush.

Several commented that they really like the fact that the lawn is green right now. I really don't mind when the lawn goes dormant as the perfect green lawn is not much of a concern for me.

My husband, on the other hand, while tired of mowing, likes the appearance of a perfect green lawn and doesn't like weeds. I am ok with weeds in the lawn.

Some emailed pictures of peppers and tomatoes that looked fantastic while mine look absolutely horrible. In fact, about a dozen of my plants are loaded with tomatoes that are half the size of what they should be and no leaves whatsoever.

I am tired, though, of keeping up with the weeds. As weeds bloom and drop seed in the garden all I can see is more work next year. Keep up with the weeds and always hit those that are flowering first. Don't allow them to go to seed and make more problems in the future.

In addition, if you have had a lot of rain, it's possible that any slow-release fertilizer that you used earlier in the season may have run out of gas. If you have containers, keep an eye on them as they may need nutrients for the rest of the season.

This also applies to any crabgrass pre-emergent fertilizer that might have been applied in the spring. If you have had lots of rain, it may have lost its effectiveness and you may see crabgrass sprout.

Location matters! I have heard some say that they are really dry in the Cincinnati area while we have had week after week of plenty of rain. I was actually quite surprised to hear R. Scot Beuerlein, horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo and BOTANIC Garden lament about watering.

My colleagues in the Toledo area said that lawns are beginning to go off-color; on the other side of the state in the Wooster area they are still mowing and are eight inches over normal rainfall amounts for the year.

The seasonality of gardening is something that gardeners take in stride. We can't have everything perfect every growing season but it would sure be nice, right?