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Harvesting Some Thoughts about Gardening



I'm not sure what God did with the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve received their eviction notice, but I think a piece of it landed in rural Tomahawk. In this issue of Senior Style you can read about the beautiful perennial flower garden created by Marleen and Merlin "Butch" Bowers.

Marleen says there is no such thing as an "ugly" flower garden. Even a single flower brings beauty to its surroundings, she explains. I was struck not only by the profusion of flowers in her garden but how the stone and pea gravel paths blend with, and add to, the flower layout. She's achieved a delicate balance as the garden is neither over-crowded nor lacking anywhere. (She's also banned garden gnomes.)

When I visited the Bowers in early June, the vegetable garden maintained by Butch was already showing healthy growth. Woven fence with electrified tape surrounds the garden to keep out both rabbits and deer. Butch turned off the juice after the deer learned their lessons. He added a couple strands of rope on top of the fence, which discouraged any high jumping by the overgrown wood rats. Seeing his garden brought back memories of my youth.

My parents maintained three large gardens (think Victory gardens in the '60s) when I was growing up in Barron County. I dreaded weeding the gardens and perhaps the reason why, as an adult, I never planted a garden. But this year I did plant a few blackberry bushes, some strawberry plants, and poked a line of sunflower seeds into the ground. Blueberry bushes may be added as both Jane and I love the fruit on cereal and ice cream.

Wonder how much straw hats cost?

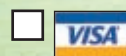


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