

August 2021

Weekly Planner and Meditations
on Spiritual Gardening

grow

Weeds

It really is amazing how quickly weeds can take over a garden if it is not cared for. Weeds can often germinate more quickly, and grow to the point of producing seeds much more rapidly than the seeds we have carefully planted. The best way to deal with weeds is to pull them out by the roots while they are still small.

This is a truth we learn about ourselves. Our soil will always be growing something. No matter how often or well we weed, weeds will keep popping up. And this is so for everyone.

The gardens of our hearts must be weeded regularly. This requires time to examine ourselves and recognize what weeds we need to deal with. However a very good way to deal with weeds is to add layers of mulch around your plants using grass clippings or weed-free hay or straw.

Perhaps this is a bit like the covering for sin that God offers each of us through His Son and finding a balance between the focus of picking out all the weeds, and thankfulness for the Gospel recognizing that we will not ever be truly weed-free in this existence.



1. Ephesians 6:14-16
2. 1 John 4:4-5
3. Hebrews 11:25-26
4. 1 Peter 2:11-12
5. 1 Timothy 6:10-11
6. Psalms 73:21-24
7. Hebrews 4:15-16
8. Romans 6:12-14
9. Isaiah 30:1
10. Proverbs 10:19-21
11. Psalm 32:5
12. Psalm 39:1
13. Psalm 4:4-5
14. Romans 6:6-8
15. Romans 7:19-21
16. 1 Corinthians 15:56-58
17. Revelation 2:7
18. Revelation 2:11
19. Revelation 2:17
20. Revelation 2:26-27
21. Revelation 3:5
22. Revelation 3:12
23. Revelation 3:21
24. Jeremiah 17:9-10
25. Ephesians 2:1-3
26. 1 John 2:15-17
27. Exodus 20:20
28. Galatians 5:16-18
29. Galatians 5:19-21
30. Ephesians 4:1-3
31. 1 John 1:9

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Send a note to someone (special anniversaries, someone I am praying for, someone I am thinking of):



Holy

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind,
be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be
brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to
the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called
you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy...

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth
through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren,
see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:
Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible,
by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:13-25 KJV

How can I praise God because He is holy?
How does His holiness prompt thanksgiving?
Do I do things that make it hard for me to be holy?
In what way do I need His help to be holy in my life?

Write this out as a prayer and pray it several times this month.

praise

give thanks

recognize sin

ask for help

Wednesday 1 Peter 2:11-12

4 Daily Tasks

Thursday 1 Timothy 6:10-11

5 Daily Tasks

Friday Psalm 73:21-24

6 Daily Tasks

Saturday Hebrews 4:15-16

7 Daily Tasks

fight

Greek “agonizomai”: to struggle, compete for a prize, contend with an adversary

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

(1 Timothy 6:12 KJV)

Take some time to ponder these facts and how they may relate to our spiritual life.



Weeds are often very successful at competing for water, nutrients, sunlight, and space.



Weeds cause more yield loss and add more to a farmer's production costs than insects, disease, rodents, birds, deer and other grazers.



Weeds can be poisonous, and cause allergies, or skin rashes although they can also be the source of medicine for healing.



More than 240 weed species are “allelopathic”, which means they can leach chemicals into the soil that inhibit growth of nearby plants.



Weeds often grow more quickly and shade out smaller plants.



Some weeds are extremely persistent so that even the smallest piece of a root can grow a new plant.



Weeds can be prolific seed producers. A single horseweed plant can produce as many as 200,000 seeds which can remain alive in the ground for 40 years.



Crop rotation using both warm and cool season crops, and switching between grass and broadleaf plants can help defeat weeds.



Many invasive weeds are non-native.



Ways of dealing with weeds are to avoid bare ground, maintain plant diversity, and mulch if possible.

meditation

A page for meditation notes. The page features a decorative border with rounded corners and a series of horizontal lines for writing. The word "meditation" is centered at the top of the page.

August

TO DO THIS WEEK:

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Sunday Romans 6:12-14

8 Daily Tasks

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Monday Isaiah 30:1

9 Daily Tasks

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Tuesday Proverbs 10:19-21

10 Daily Tasks

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Wednesday Psalm 32:5

11

Daily Tasks

Thursday Psalm 39:1

12

Daily Tasks

Friday Psalm 4:4-5

13

Daily Tasks

Saturday Romans 6:6-8

14

Daily Tasks

The Glory of the Garden

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise ;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows ;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing, "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

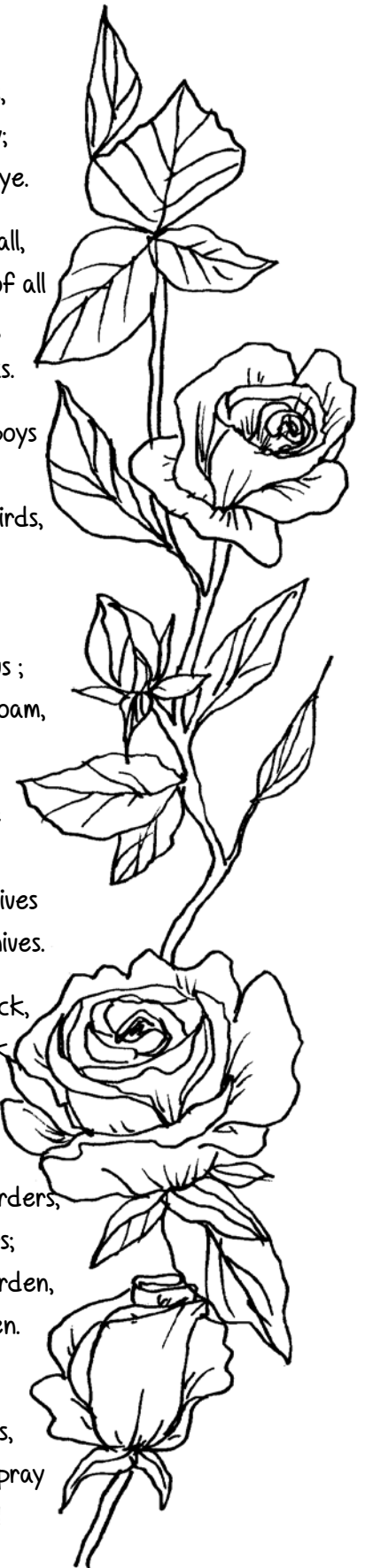
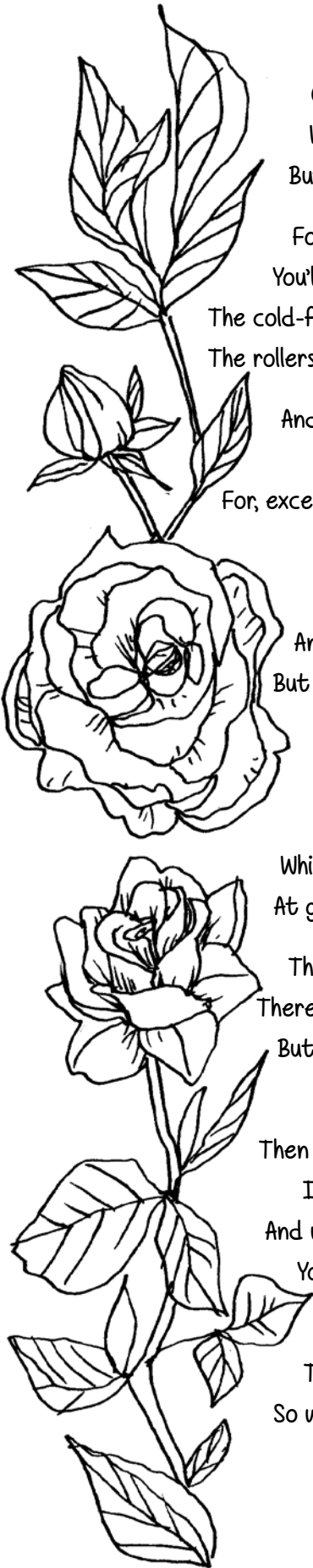
There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner In the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!

And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

RUDYARD KIPLING (1865-1936)



experience

Get to know the Canada Thistle

This plant is native to Europe and Northern Asia, and was probably brought over to North America by settlers in the 1600's. It has spiny green leaves with purple flowers and can grow up to 1.5 metres tall. A single plant may produce up to 1500 seeds which are carried away by the wind. However, it reproduces quite well by sending shoots up from its horizontal roots which can grow 6 metres in a single season. If the roots are cut, they can continue to send up shoots even from a very small piece. This weed creates dense infestations that crowd out and decrease moisture and nutrients for other plants. The best way of dealing with this plant is to sever the shoots repeatedly which will starve the roots although it may take years.



Get to know the Dandelion

The name of this plant comes from a French phrase, "dent-de-lion", which means "lion's tooth" and refers to the jagged edges of the leaves. They are native to Eurasia and introduced to North America by migration. They are self-fertile and grow from seeds and do not spread from roots although the plant can live for several years. The flowers are actually many individual florets each with a stamen and a stigma. The stamen produces the pollen and the stigma receives the pollen, producing a single seed. When all the florets have been fertilized, they close up and dry out and then open again with each seed attached to a little parachute, perfect for travelling. Each flower can produce up to 170 seeds. The best way of dealing with this plant is not to let it go to seed.



Get to know Bindweed

Bindweed is a perennial vining plant. It develops a deep taproot and then horizontal roots which can stretch up to 60 metres. It grows from both seeds and roots and the seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 30 years. It wraps itself around anything in its path effectively shading and smothering it. It has a beautiful, funnel shaped fragrant flower. The best way to deal with this weed is to keep cutting any shoots below the soil and hopefully starve the root.



Can you find examples of these weeds? Sketch them below.

August

TO DO THIS WEEK:

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Sunday Romans 7:19-21

15

Daily Tasks

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Monday 1 Corinthians 15:56-58

16

Daily Tasks

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Tuesday Revelation 2:7

17

Daily Tasks

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Master the Hindrances

Think of your garden: when it is free of pests and weeds and diseases, given the right feeding, growth flourishes. When growth diminishes and plants become weary and withered, it is nearly always due to some horticultural hindrance—beetles, blight and bindweed. The teaching of Jesus confirms it. In the parable of the sower the unfruitful seed was unfruitful because of some hindrance to growth—rocky subsoil, weeds, hungry birds. The fruitful seed flourished in good soil free from hindrances. So here emerges an important principle of progress—*master the hindrances*.

If you return to the figure with which we began, the running of the race, the principle is still true: “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Weights are hindrances and the teaching of the writer to the Hebrews is that they have to be mastered in the cause of victory. How often has the runner said that he made a good start and was in a good position, *but*—then follows the something which hindered him from pressing forward and onward to breast the tape. Nobody in their right mind would run in hobnail boots and an overcoat, but some hindrances are far less obvious and more subtle. Whatever they are, for progress to be made they have to be mastered. Once long ago the ecclesiastics in Galatia were faltering and the apostle Paul diagnosed their trouble like this: “Ye did run well: who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”

—from *The Genius of Discipleship* by D. Gillett

What weeds are growing in your garden?

What worries you or distracts you?

Are riches deceiving you?

What does your heart desire truthfully?

How well are the weeds growing?

What do you spend a lot of your time thinking about, doing, being excited about?

How much damage are the weeds doing?

- Don't let them go to seed.
- Limit the availability to them of water, nutrients and sunlight.
- Directly water the plants you wish to grow (drip irrigation).
- Plant your crops close together.
- Apply mulch around your plants.
- Focus on weeds that threaten your cultivated plants rather than all weeds.

my weeds...

A large rectangular frame with rounded corners, containing horizontal lines for writing. The frame is defined by a thin black border. The interior of the frame is filled with 25 horizontal lines, providing a space for writing. The text "my weeds..." is positioned at the top center of the frame, above the first line.

Wednesday Ephesians 2:1-3

25

Daily Tasks

Thursday 1 John 2:15-17

26

Daily Tasks

Friday Exodus 20:20

27

Daily Tasks

Saturday Galatians 5:16-18

28

Daily Tasks
