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Contributed by Trish Reynolds

2021 RESOLUTIONS FOR GARDENERS

As we approach the end of 2020 and so look forward to the New Year, 2021, we tend to think of things past....what would we change, what we might have done differently. All we want to do is leave 2020 behind and look forward to a brighter time....A time when we can all be together again, a time when we can be with family and friends, perhaps hug a neighbor, shop in a store....and soon take off those masks! We know this will all take time...but hope is on the horizon. So let's look forward and make a few resolutions for our efforts in the garden with **Resolutions for Gardeners for 2021.**

I know that on the top of my list for 2021 Resolutions is eating healthier, losing those extra pandemic pounds, and getting more exercise. The good news is that gardening can help me, and you, accomplish these goals, along with other goals we might set for ourselves, like learning new things, going a bit more green, and most of all having fun.

So here are a few suggestions for your Gardening Resolutions for 2021:



Spigelia marilandica
- Indian Pink

Plant more: Think of adding lavender to your garden – the pleasing scent will soothe your soul. Add a native plant or two to your landscape – maybe a small tree, shrub or perennial. Plant for the pollinators.....

Take up journaling: Write down when your first hellebore blooms, or the first crocus pops up; note the new plants you add to your landscape and how they do; take note of the plants that don't survive; keep track of the new annuals you add this summer....and more.

Take care of the wildlife: Especially in the winter months, add a new bird feeder; put a heater in your birdbath to keep the water from freezing; hang some suet cages. One thing we did was accumulate twigs and branches for a bird or critter hideout at the edge of our wetlands....something new!



Trish's Critter Hide-out



Trish's Compost Pile

Make maintenance of your garden easier: Set up a drip irrigation system to reduce your hand-watering during the heat of the summer; clean your tools this winter so they will be ready when the spring arrives and you want to get out in your garden; and incorporate native grasses and low maintenance plants into your landscape.

Go green: Start a compost pile and make your own “garden gold”; don’t let weeds get the upper hand, but do it with environmentally approved herbicides; go thru your old chemicals and get rid of the harmful pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Eat your veggies: Think about starting a vegetable garden. If you have a small space you can plant salad greens in a pot, herbs in your window sill and seedlings under a grow light. For a larger space, think about incorporating herbs or even veggies in your borders—something new and different.



Have some fun: Plant a cutting garden and share your bounty with a hand-tied bouquet for a neighbor or a friend; plant a sunflower or two with your grandchildren or your children and watch them enjoy “their flower” as it grows!

Trish, Janet, Bobbie, Kim, Rebecca, Pam, Samantha, Lin, Louise and Nancy

