New Year’s Resolutions for Gardeners

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New Year’s Resolutions for gardeners can be simple and only affect your garden or they can be far-reaching enough to impact the environment and/or the whole community. Here are some for you to consider.

* I am going to use my production of vegetables in the garden to improve the nutrition of everyone in the family by producing more of the vegetables they like over a longer season and by trying new vegetables and recipes to increase the types and amounts of vegetables eaten. I realize this will take some family discussions and garden planning.
* We are going to use the garden as a basis of spending more quality time together as a family. This can be accomplished if I figure out what plants interest the other members of the family and provide space to grow those plants. The quality time we spend together will also be an important exercise opportunity.
* I am going to increase my role in sustainable landscaping by discontinuing the practice of bagging my leaves and grass clippings and having them sent to the landfill. They will be used in our landscape as mulch and or compost.
* We are going to evaluate our landscape in terms of its environmental appropriateness. The goal will be to figure out how to use less water and less pesticides. The analysis will go even further in figuring out how to provide 12 months of color and increase the number and species of birds that frequent the yard. It will also mean that I am going to convert a specific part of my landscape from turf to groundcovers.
* I want to take steps to contribute to the Monarch butterfly restoration effort. I will make plantings that provide more nectar at the right time and milkweed plants to serve as egg-laying sites. I want to go further in making the effort known to my family and neighbors as an education initiative with the goal that they also will join the effort. The impact will be most effective if I can show everyone the caterpillars and the butterflies along with how to plant the milkweed seed.
* I am going to use the knowledge I have gained about the environment by participating in citizen advisory groups for the City, SAWS, CPS and other community agencies. It is not always easy to find the right committee or role but I will make the effort. I will contact my City Councilperson’s office and the agency public information offices to start my quest.
* I am going to expand my social networking to include garden and environment related contacts. It will mean that I will enlist the help of my children and gardening friends to identify the opportunities. I will also work to make my involvement active rather than passive.
* I want to expand my gardening by embracing a new area of gardening such as water gardening that will require me to learn how to grow new plants and use new cultural practices.
* I am going to increase my access to gardening ideas and innovation by finding some new computer, social media, radio, television, and newspaper sources that provide gardening information. This resolution will be expanded further by resolving to participate in a more demanding gardening education route such as becoming a member of an active Garden Club or even the Master Gardeners or Gardening Volunteers of South Texas.