

Growing a Garden

In *First Things First*, author A. Roger Merrill tells of a business consultant who decided to landscape his grounds. He hired a woman with a doctorate in horticulture who was extremely knowledgeable.

Because the business consultant was very busy and traveled a lot, he kept emphasizing to her the need to create his garden in a way that would require little or no maintenance on his part. He insisted on automatic sprinklers and other labor-saving devices.

Finally she stopped him and said, "There's one thing you need to deal with before we go any further. If there's no gardener, there's no garden."

There are no labor-saving devices for growing a garden of moral values. Becoming a person of spiritual fruitfulness requires time, attention and care.

--Beecher Hunter