



## Day 6 In the Garden

Every spring when the days got brighter earlier and stayed later longer, my dad would start thinking about the summer garden. Our 20'x20' plot right behind the garage in the backyard was a summer treasure trove of delicious food that fed a family of seven - and then some. When the snow started to melt and the weather warmed, it was time to rototill the soil.

"Why do we do this, Dad?" I asked. After all, the plants were strong enough to spread their roots and break through the soil. He told me that the nutrients in the soil would better serve the plants if they were mixed. He also said that it gave the plants a little extra room to grow. He helped me to realize that change, for plants, as well as people, helps them to grow stronger and more fully.

During the summer months, when we'd pick large Beefsteak tomatoes and harvest more zucchinis than we could cook or bake, we would be rewarded for preparing the soil well. And later in the fall when we had filled cans and jars, we would be grateful all over again.

***"Dear God, when you are molding us and forming us, please help us to always remember that change, even when it's hard, can strengthen us. Help us when we realize the fruits of our labors, to show gratitude for your gifts. Amen."***

– Kathleen Leigh Lewarchick