

Harvesting Life's Lessons  
Christie Craig of Texas

With Grandma for a guide, there's nothing a young girl can't learn in the garden. The author recalls how by helping her grandmother in the garden she first learned to count and learned the lesson of reaping what you sow. Her grandmother said "plant a smile and you'll grow a little happiness". As she grew, she learned how to spell by sounding out the names of the plants. Grandmother said "work hard and never grow tired of learning". She asked her grandmother why blackberries had to have thorns as the splinters were pulled from her small fingers. The answer from grandmother was "a lot of pretty things have thorns. Life has thorns sometimes, but you can't stop picking." Then there was the strawberry patch where she ate the red sweet fruit as fast as her hands could pick it. "Careful" she'd say, "too much even of a good thing is still too much." One day years later grandmother came to Christie's garden and insisted they spend the afternoon doing some much needed weeding. She said "sometimes our lives are like our gardens. We need to weed out what's not important so we take care of what is." Today as I help steady grandmother she tells me "sometimes the memories of gardens are as sweet as the gardens themselves. We will always have the memories."