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A Bucket List for Gardeners

by Lydia Holley

Recently, someone asked me if I had a ‘bucket list’ - a list of things one wants to do or see before they die, or ‘kick the bucket’. There are several garden-related items on my personal bucket list, one of which is to finish my garden. Perhaps I will live forever, since gardens are never truly finished.

If you are a gardener, here are some things you may want to include on your own bucket list.

Would you like to see a famous garden? The garden that you personally would want to see may depend upon many things, including your own garden style. Some suggestions are the white garden at Sissinghurst Castle, Great Dixter (home of the late Christopher Lloyd), the Garden of Ninfa (hailed as the most romantic garden in the world), the red borders at Hidcote Manor, the potager at Villandry, or the two on my personal wish list: Versailles and Villa Lante.



(Pictured: the vegetable garden at Monticello)

Perhaps you would prefer to stay in the United States to fulfill your bucket list. There are many fun and interesting lists that could be achieved without venturing abroad.

You could choose to visit one garden in each of the 50 states. This could be 50 public gardens, 50 private gardens, or a mix. If you are interested in seeing private gardens, the Garden Conservancy’s Open Days might be a great place to start. You could see 50 gardens in one year through that program, although they would be in just a handful of states.

A fun addition to the list for a gardener with a love of history would be to take a President’s garden tour. The National Park Service has information on former homes and birthplaces of former Presidents open for touring.

If you want to be awed, drive through a redwood. There are a limited number of drive-thru trees still standing in California.

Stay in the great state of Texas and venture to all 63 still living “Famous Trees of Texas” as defined by the Texas Forest Service. Or you could visit all of the 20-plus botanical gardens in Texas.

You can even stay in your own neighborhood to achieve your personal bucket list. You could generously give a plant to each person on your block, and share the love of gardening to others. Make your gift a little more personal by inviting your neighbors over for a tour of your own garden, and give everyone attending a cutting

of a plant from your garden. They may remember your kindness and generosity every time they see that particular plant growing in their garden.

On everyone's bucket list should be the simple act of planting a tree. It has been said "We plant trees not for ourselves, but for future generations." That one simple act could be a beautiful and long-lasting legacy for many grateful generations to enjoy.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.