

Plant a Garden Today

By Kelly Crotty -

Photos: Kelly's Creations in the CLE

How many of you gave gardening a try for the first time this year? How did it go? Well, let me tell you, what a year it has been! I have seen some spectacular results in both my Kitchen Garden and Landscape Beds, along with my client's spaces. I'll admit, though, there have been some trials and tribulations as well! If you have felt defeated, I encourage you to keep trying - the notion that a green thumb comes naturally isn't true - the key is having the right knowledge! Around this time of year, I hear people start saying, "Oh, I would love to have a garden like yours, but I missed the timing. So, I guess I'm just going to have to wait until next year." Good news, it's never too late to start a garden! Nature deliberately plants in the fall, so why shouldn't you? Think about all the plants, trees, and berries ripening, eventually dropping or being eaten, and their seeds being distributed into the soil at this time of year.

Gardening experts will tell you to first learn your garden zone before planting, but honestly, zones are much too general to inform you of what's technically possible. Zones specify a first and a last frost date as the most significant times of the year. This leads new



gardeners to believe that they can only grow between those two days. In truth, the only information the frost date reveals, is when

the cool season ends and the warm season begins. The best way to know what's possible in your unique space is to know your Arc of Seasons. Here we have our Cold, Cool, Warm (with a touch of Hot), back to Cool. Then the Arc of Seasons starts all over again. And, that is why it's never too late to start a garden, there are always things that can be growing!

I start planting in February, harvesting in late March/early April and continue through December sometimes! Say what?! It's true! And that's why finding and using local resources as much as possible can be so helpful. Local experts will help you figure out how to strategize and make a garden plan to achieve your own garden paradise.



Kelly Crotty, of Kelly's Creations in the CLE, is a Certified Garden Coach, who assists clients at every phase of gardening - designing, planning, or troubleshooting space. She is available for both virtual and in-person options to get your urban space set up for success into next year. Follow her by visiting kellyscreationsinthecle.com to read more about what services are offered and follow her @KellysCreationsInTheCLE to see what's happening! Call for an appointment: 216-307-7727.

