



The True Gardener is never Overmuch Disquieted

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Here is some excellent counsel from an obscure antiquarian source, as valid today as it was when it was written in 1895:

‘The true gardener is never overmuch disquieted by bad seasons, whether they are seasons of drought or of frost. The half-hearted gardener thinks that all is lost when he has lost one season; but the wise man’s caution has a very wide meaning: ‘He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.’ The fair-weather gardener, who will do nothing except when the wind and weather and everything else are favourable, is never a master of his craft. Gardening, above all crafts, is a matter of faith, grounded, however (if on nothing better), on his experience that somehow or other seasons go on in their right course, and bring their right results. No doubt bad seasons are a trial of his faith; it is grievous to lose the fruits of much labour by a frosty winter or a drouthy summer; but after all, frost and drought are necessities for which, in all his calculations, he must leave an ample margin; but even in the extreme cases, when the margin is past, the gardener’s occupation is not gone.’

‘from *In a Gloucestershire Garden* by Henry N. Ellacombe (1895)

Note: *A Gloucestershire Garden* was republished by [Read Books Design in 2009 \(Paperback\)](#) [1], and can be found on-line at [Open Library](#)[2].

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