

GROWERTALKS

Growers Talk Business

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Give Me a Grower

Art Parkerson



ART PARKERSON

Give me a grower whose office is the greenhouse, whose work vehicle is most often their own two legs and whose timeclock is a Rainbird.

Give me a grower so obsessed with efficiency that they waste neither movement nor moment and seize every opportunity to simply stroll about doing nothing but observing their crops.

Give me a grower who listens to plants and talks to people. Who leads employees and is led by leaves.

Give me a grower who is a better meteorologist than the local news channel's weatherman.

Give me a grower who makes meticulous plans, but then happily does whatever the plants demand, for plants can't read spreadsheets.

Give me a grower whose primary growth regulator is H₂O.

Give me a grower who truly enjoys working hard under a blazing sun or in a humid greenhouse, but also has a lazy streak strong enough to avoid unnecessary touches.

Give me a grower who is smart enough to know when they're ignorant and confident enough to doubt everything they think they know.

Give me a grower who loves their plants enough to sacrifice all sensible comfort to serve them, yet is unsentimental enough to celebrate wildly when they depart, seemingly overnight, without so much as a "thank you" or "goodbye."

Give me a grower who desires to do this over and over again.

Give me a grower who will be proud and unflinching when they fail, and humble and gracious when they succeed.

Give me a grower who counts pennies.

Give me a grower who considers prayer to be most effective as a prophylactic, not an emergency cure.

Give me a grower whose mind is always in the soil. Give me a grower who looks at roots, not flowers.

Give me a grower who is generous with their time and attention, and stingy with water.

Finally, give me a grower who can propagate not only plants, but also themselves. May they be able to mentor, train and inspire others to the noble calling of horticulture. **GT**

Art Parkerson lives and works at Lancaster Farms, a wholesale nursery in Suffolk, Virginia. To say hello, write to art@lancasterfarms.com.