

When Things Start to Grow

Warm winds and budding trees greet us these days. Birds are returning to their breeding grounds, or passing through as they travel further north. Great Horned owls have been nesting for a while, perched atop old crow and hawk nests. People who go south for the winter have made their journey back north. Seed is being cleaned and machinery prepared. Farm auction sales fill the farm and local papers. Fences in pastures demand to be repaired. Wood ticks cling to our dogs and to us if we go through the grass or bushes. Seedlings are growing in local green-houses and on window sills.

It is also income tax time, a season unto itself.

We work in our yards, caring for lawns and beginning to work in gardens. Gardeners dig around their perennials, seeing what has survived the winter.

Discussions turn to the moisture levels. Some areas are quite dry. We talk of how rains may come in May. We all wonder what lies ahead for this growing season. We hope for adequate heat, sunshine and moisture levels, for our livelihoods and the good of all our communities. There are many Scriptures that spring to mind. Scriptures of a people strongly connected to the land and God.

*"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the riches of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you and remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me."
(Psalm 63: 1-8)*

The psalmist parallels our need of God to the land's need for moisture, a very powerful image!

(by Barb Alston)

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