



Salaon's Garden: Lessons in Patience and the Philosophy of Earth

by Salaon Bear

In a quiet corner of Salaon's world lies a vast garden, pulsing with life from end to end. It isn't just a green space; it's a place that tells daily stories of soil, sun, and the philosophy of waiting.

Salaon set out to build his own green sanctuary, realising that a garden—no matter its size—needs one essential thing: consistent, simple care. The truth is, you don't need to be an expert to start. You only need to understand that every plant has its own personality and needs; some are patient and heat-tolerant, while others require delicate care. Making the right choice from the beginning makes all the difference.

Lessons from Behind the Sprouts:

To Salaon, gardening is more than just watering plants; it's a journey of observation and discovery. The earth hides wonderful secrets for those who take the time to reflect:

- **Tomatoes:** They teach us about support. They stretch their vines and need something to lean on to rise—much like beautiful relationships that flourish with care.
- **Potatoes:** They teach us trust. They grow in secret beneath the ground, unseen, yet they require your patience to eventually gift you their harvest.
- **Watermelons:** They teach us about generosity. They need ample space and light to grow healthy and grand.
- **Lettuce:** Despite its simplicity, it teaches us commitment. It requires steady attention to remain fresh and crisp.

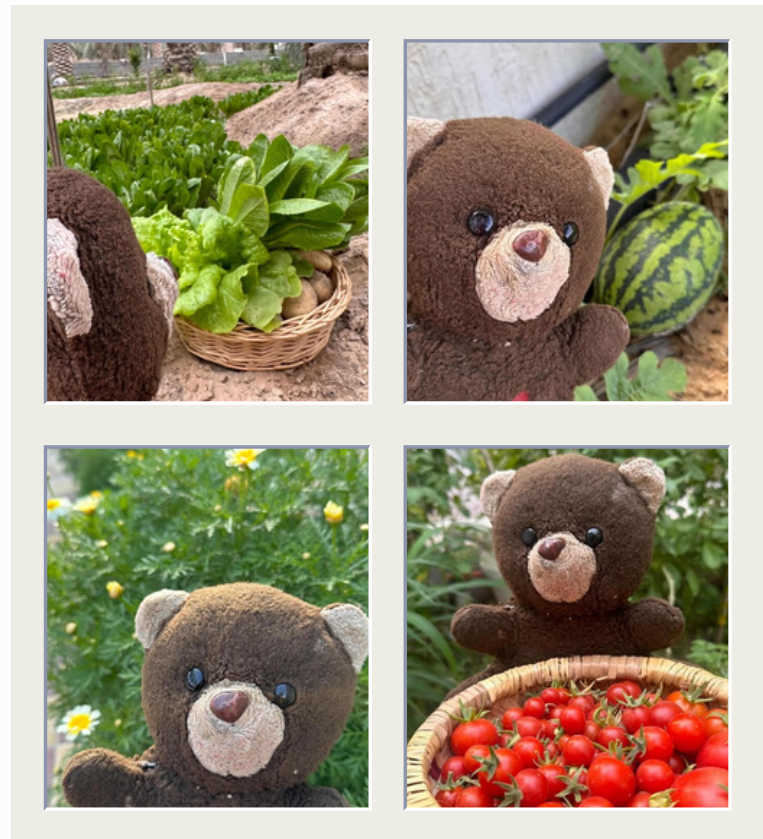
As the garden grew, it became clear that "organisation" is the soul of the place. The arrangement of plants, the irrigation methods, and the spacing are all details that shape the final result. Over time, Salaon learned how to balance these elements without overcomplicating them.

Of course, things weren't always perfect. Sometimes birds would share the harvest, and other times the weather was stronger than any effort. But Salaon, with his trademark realism, learned to "adapt." Gardening isn't about absolute control; it's about coexisting with nature and accepting its shifts.

The Conclusion:

The beauty of it all is that hard work always bears fruit. When you hold your harvest in your hands, you feel like you were part of a true miracle. Gardening isn't just a hobby; it's an experience that teaches you persistence and how to accept things when they don't go as planned.

In the end, Salaon discovered that he wasn't just growing plants... he was planting time, care, and peace of mind—all growing stronger with each passing day. Whether your garden is on a small balcony or in a wide backyard, the idea is the same: Start, experiment, and let your relationship with the earth grow bit by bit.





Plushie Power for the Garden: Composting Made Easy!

by Gasbricki

Dear friends of fluff, have you ever wondered what our humans are actually doing in those boxes in the garden or on the balcony? They call it "compost"—and it's basically a super-food for plants! Healthy plants mean nicer spots for us to sunbathe. Here is everything you, as supervisors, need to know.

What is Compost, Anyway?

Imagine compost as nature's own recycling: old kitchen scraps are turned into nutrient-rich soil. It's true magic that makes flowers bigger and veggies tastier!

How Does It Work?

Whether in a garden or on a balcony, there's a right method for every human helper. Your job is to supervise!

Method

Method	Description	Plushie Protocol
The Classic (Garden)	A box in a shady corner. The secret is the "Brown & Green Rule": dry stuff (leaves, cardboard) is mixed with moist stuff (veggie scraps, coffee grounds).	Choose a good observation post and make sure the lid is secure!
The Wormery (Balcony)	A tower full of wiggly worms that turn kitchen scraps into amazing soil. Fascinating!	Watch from a distance only! We don't want any unauthorized worm tours in the living room.
The Bokashi Bin (Balcony)	A kind of "pickling bucket" that ferments the scraps instead of rotting them. Very neat and tidy.	Supervise from the highest shelf to avoid any splashes. Very low risk!

What Goes In and What Stays Out?

Here is the official list for your humans:

- YES, PLEASE: Fruit & veggie peels, coffee grounds, eggshells.
- NO, THANK YOU: Meat, cheese, cooked leftovers, oils.
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY: Never, EVER any plushies!

Safety Warning for All Plushies!

Friends, compost is useful, but it's also dangerous!

- Stain Hazard: Compost is damp and dirty.
- One slip can lead to terrible stains!
- Tipping Danger: Never climb on buckets or bins!
- Moisture Menace: Getting too close can make our stuffing lumpy.



Our number one rule is therefore: Keep a safe distance! We are supervisors, not soil workers.

Fluffy regards, and thanks for reading. @gasbrick



How Walt Disney World Impacts the Food You Eat...For the Better!

by Bandit the Niffler

Darkness. A crack of thunder. A pan flute's gentle call.

These are the signs that you are riding one of Epcot's oldest attractions at Walt Disney World, Living with the Land. The calm boat ride first takes you past recreations of various environments, such as a bone-dry desert and a rainforest full of birdsong, before sending you into the second half of the ride

When you emerge from a dimly lit barn, you find yourself in the quiet greenhouse. In here, bright sunlight feeds the thousands of real plants that your boat floats past as the narrator tells you fun facts about their species. After a trip through a tunnel that features aquacultural displays illuminated by a harsh red light, you find yourself in another greenhouse. The final leg of your boat journey showcases breakthroughs in new techniques for growing plants. The standouts include hydroponics, in which plants are fed not by soil but by nutrient rich water, housed in futuristic white structures that allow rows of plants to be grown vertically instead of horizontally along the ground.

After another tunnel, your boat travels to the dock and you exit into the Land Pavilion, but the impact this ride has on you does not end there. As the narrator explains, all the food grown inside this ride—and some secret greenhouses out back—are used to supply fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, and seafood to restaurants at Walt Disney World. While this little farm is not big enough to service all of Disney's grocery needs, it does provide over 40,000 pounds (18,143 kilograms) of food per year and services an estimated 20 restaurants. Given that Epcot has roughly that many restaurants (not including festival food booths, food stands, bars, or lounges), it's a good bet that anytime you're eating at Epcot, you're eating something that was grown there!

Not only does Living with the Land service Epcot, but through its scientific agricultural advancements, it provides new knowledge to botanists around the world! Disney partners with the US Department of Agriculture and even NASA to help develop new growing techniques and conduct research projects in the biotechnology lab seen at the close of the ride.

Because of Epcot's visionary approaches to gardening, we can all be truly living with the land.

Sources: Midway to Main Street. "How Much Food is Grown at Epcot?" 2021, YouTube. Lynch, Christy. "How Walt Disney World's Farm Grows the Most Magical Produce on Earth." May 2018, Farm Flavor.





Strange New Planet 12: Cooked in India

by @fluffys_fun_adventures and @this_is_little_chewie

Fluffy: "I'm here with @this_is_little_chewie in Kolkata, India. Malicious gossip has it that I only came here because he's the host of #SaturdayPotluckWithChewie. It is a mere coincidence that today is Saturday. But speaking of... what's for lunch today?"

Chewie: "Oh! I'm glad you asked: A deliciously rich Assamese thali: A traditional spread of lunch from the Northeast India state of Assam! We have lentils or dal, fried veggies, and two types of curried river fish fresh from the market, and steamed rice to enjoy it all with!"

Fluffy: "Nom! But why does it smell like roasted chicken, like, literally, everywhere?" 😊

Chewie: (sniffs) "That's you."

Fluffy: "Me?!"

Chewie: "Well, didn't you notice how hot it is? The weather in our part of the world has only two settings: hot and illegally hot. For about six months, the temperature hovers around 40°C (104°F), which is the kind of heat where stepping outside feels like opening an oven to check on a roast — except you are the roast."

Fluffy: "Why does this make me hungry?" (tries nibbling on his hand)

Chewie: (scratches his head)

Fluffy: "Maybe I should come back later when the weather is less roasty. I might have eaten myself by lunch."

Chewie: "There is a rainy season in between, but the showers mostly turn the place into a steam room rather than cooling anything down."

Fluffy: "Rain?! Nah, eating myself it is."

Chewie: "I'll better hurry up with lunch."

Fluffy: "While I watch you cook, tell me about yourself."

Chewie: "I moved in with my two humans in the middle of 2015. At the time, one human was sick and bedridden for six weeks, so the other human wisely concluded that what the situation needed was a small, fluffy Chewbacca. This decision was based on two solid facts: One, human is a devoted Star Wars fan; and two, Chewbacca the Wookiee is clearly excellent at boosting morale."

Fluffy: "I'm sure! How do you boost morale?"



Chewie: "My favourite way: By cooking! Saturdays are devoted to cooking and hosting our now-legendary "Saturday Potluck with Chewie" — a weekly event we started somewhat casually and which has since acquired some reputation, with more than 5,000 posts across the plushie community. When we're not feeding people and eating, we are busy fulfilling our social obligations in the Instagram plushie world: attending birthday celebrations, participating in themed activities, or staging highly professional photo shoots for things like the Plushie Colour Quest."

Fluffy: "What was your favourite Colour Quest?"

Chewie: "Definitely Comfort Food. Hosted by [@octaviatheotter](#) in early April 2026. As you know, we love to cook and eat and share our dishes with our friends! One of our comfort foods is Chilli Cheese Toast! It's such a tasty snack and it reminds our hoomans of their childhood. So for that week's colour quest, Monty made some chilli cheese toast for you all! Plushie-sized bites, fresh from the oven!"

Fluffy: "That sounds amazing! So you're just all day inside, eating?" 😊

Chewie: "Well, thankfully, from November to March, we're able to venture outdoors to enjoy the pleasant weather. So if the weather is feeling cooperative — which, as discussed, is not always guaranteed — we wander over to the nearby lake, Rabindra Sarobar. It's full of trees, birds, and assorted aquatic life, all of which we observe with great interest and sometimes record for the Plushie Botanical Club and Plushie Wildlife Watching Club (of which Chewie is a Senior 4-Star Member). Do you want to go outside and see the city later?"

Fluffy: "Well... I probably should, since I came here all the way from Germany. What's your city like?"



Chewie: "Kolkata is a megacity, with over 10 million people who all seem to be going somewhere urgently at all times but never quite arriving at their destination in time."

We, however, mostly orbit a smaller pocket in the southern part of the city. Our neighbourhood is called Lake Market, a pretty literal name: there is indeed a lake nearby, and there is indeed a market next door. The lake offers calm; the market offers chaos; between the two, we feel nicely balanced."

Fluffy: "I'm afraid of lakes...what else is there to see around here?"

Chewie: "Compared with most other cities of India, Kolkata is a new city. We can't boast of centuries-old architecture, which makes our country famous. Perhaps the most interesting thing to see here is actually the city in motion. Take a walk through central Kolkata, and you'll find grand old British colonial buildings standing beside crumbling ones, massive private palaces from the 19th century lying hidden in narrowest of lanes, yellow taxis arguing with unruly buses and autorickshaws, and people conducting entire lives on the pavement."

Fluffy: "That does sound like fun! Let's do lunch first though."

Chewie: "Lunch is almost ready. Please make yourself comfortable in the other room. I'm bringing the food over shortly."

(5 minutes later)

Chewie: "Fluffy?! Where are you?"

(voice out of nowhere) "Sorry, couldn't wait. I've eaten myself."

Chewie: "What?!"

Fluffy: "In my defence, I was delicious."





Flowers Forever: a beautiful art expo telling the story of flowers

by [@cookiemreport](#)



You know me love flowers, right? Me can be found at Keukenhof through the whole short season, me go to the flower floats parade and me just loooove to have flowers in the garden. It only normal me also love flowers in art. Here at the Netherlands at Kunsthal Rotterdam you can now visit an extraordinary expo about flowers in art. From botanical accuracy to abstract, from flowers in the fields to installations so beautiful you think you are in a magical flowers forest.

The expo shows us the many facets of flowers in history. From little symbols in paintings to get secret messages across to paintings of vases with impossible bouquets. The secret messages of flowers are wellknown, like roses for love and lilies for the Virgin Mary. Dead or wilted flowers are a symbol for death and aging, while gardenia stand for secret love and the tulip for elegance and perfection. Cool huh. An impossible bouquet is an artwork where flowers from different seasons have been brought together. Probably an artist had dried flowers in its shop or drew them throughout the year and decided that peonies and tulips could be together in a bouquet. Although not possible, me love those paintings. Especially because there are often little creatures like ladybugs in them.

There were so many great pieces but me faves are the installations. Me normally not into installations, but these are sooo pretty. It starts with a tree made of dried flowers that once used to be in a vase in someones home. There are even weddingbouquets if you look closely. It so pretty. The other intstallation is a flowerbed with flowers made of recycled glass. The flowerbed represents the demographic of the Netherlands. It is very very pretty and even giving off discovibes on the ceiling and walls! The last installation left me in great awe. The artist made all kinds of small flowers through a very special technique. At one side they are completely black, symbolizing loss, grief and the dark side of life. But when you walk around it, the flowers are showing their bright colours! It represents optimism and that flowers can make you very happy. Well... they obviously did!

Me really loved to see it all! Me hope you can enjoy flowers around you too, in real life and in art!

Big Hugs,
Big & Tiny Cookie

