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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SHARING
SECRETS**

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“What got you interested in gardening or growing plants?”

I was born to two gardeners. My father was one by occupation and my mother as an avocation. - *JJ*

My inspiration came when I was 4 or 5 years old. I was sitting on my back porch in British Columbia looking at the wild grasses and found them to be very beautiful. - *JJ*

Tending perennial and vegetable gardens with my mother during my childhood in Illinois. My earliest garden memory is building a three-tier herb garden next to our small orchard. Great memories! - *JL*

It's in the blood. Both sets of grandparents gardened; one set in Sherman Oaks and the other in Eagle Rock, especially food and roses. - *SG*

Thinking about this question has been an interesting experience in forgotten memories for me. Three people were important. My grandfather, who loved growing zinnias and sweet peas as well as asparagus and other vegetables, patiently explained plants and shared his love of gardening with me when I was very young.

My mother "let" me weed and dig up beds in preparation for her planting. A teacher (name now forgotten) showed me how seeds grew by suspending them in cheesecloth in a jar of water. Others along the way were very important as they encouraged and supported my interest. I thank them all. - *BC*

My early childhood memories are of following my grandmother in her garden as she tended such plants as fuchsias, callas, avocado and citrus, and helping my mother plant pansies and tend tomatoes and espaliered pears. Their delight and joy in gardening, the peacefulness and serenity of it, made a deep, lasting impression on me. - *LC*

My mother used to get lots of mail-order catalogs, including Burpee Seeds and Brecks Bulbs. She wasn't a gardener at all, but I liked to look through the catalogs. I was fascinated by the "Big Max" pumpkin and the bells of Ireland because the flowers were green. I think I may have tried growing the pumpkin but wasn't successful and I've yet to grow bells of Ireland.

Then a neighbor got me interested in cacti. So I pattered a bit at gardening until I was about high school age, then there was a hiatus until after I graduated from UCLA, where my flowering plant taxonomy professor (Frank Almeda, now at California Academy of Sciences) rekindled my interest in plants. - *KM*

I inherited by love of gardening from my mother and grandmother. - *DC*