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### Growth in a Communal Context

There is a great deal more that goes into fostering healthy plant life than meets the eye. For the unknowing and inexperienced folk, the beliefs behind maintaining a healthy garden lie in occasional watering and frequent sun exposure. Though the prudential gardener or farmer understands that attention goes beyond the fundamentals of water, oxygen, and light for growth, such as presence of mineral nutrients, temperature control, spacing of plants, etc.). It is accurate to say that a healthy garden space is convoluted in terms of such technical management, though yet, there is more that goes into making a successful garden and having a positive garden experience. Namely, the qualities of genuine interest and care for wellbeing are ever so crucial in making the garden space flourish as a whole. At Trybal Revival, Dale and Tomme have displayed these crucial elements to the first degree towards the garden and the gardeners themselves, ultimately hosting a place of growth.

The first day I began as a community member at Trybal, I came to learn that a few projects were already underway. Specifically, a circular plot (roughly seven feet in diameter) was in its early stages, a fresh canvas ready for whatever my garden members and I wished to plant. A blueprint had already been composed since I had begun, depicting plant life from spinach and rainbow Swiss chard to sunflowers and peas. Since my first encounter of this plot, progress has been considerable. Due to my fellow community members' and my absence throughout the majority of the week, Dale and Tomme assume the responsibility of watering and assuring that no harm has been done by any external means. Considering, the plot has proved to be a great place for growth. Although the rainbow chard began as starters, they continue to develop from each week to the next and likewise for the spinach. The progress is apparent within our circular garden plot, providing a sense of confidence among the group and furthermore feeding our interest of making the healthiest garden as possible.

Besides this ongoing project, we tend to planting more long-term foliage of trees on open property. Two starter species that we have put in the ground are Pawpaw and pear trees. Of course, the development of these plants does not unfurl as quickly as those that are featured in our circular plot, although if our planting of them went successfully, then visiting them within several months' to a year's time will provide a good look into gardening progress. Such visual growth can be exciting and inspirational, though it is very interesting to think where else growth or maturing has taken place.

A beautiful and unique aspect of community gardens (especially Trybal) is where one will see and experience growth. Commonly, growth is attributed to physical and literal means, limiting how and where one can use the word. The boundaries associated with this concept were deconstructed for me after around a month's experiences of gardening, conversing, laughing, and learning at Trybal Revival. I have had much hands-on experience with garden work at Trybal Revival, though moreover, Tomme and Dale have set me in the right direction in beginning to see the merit behind community involvement in terms of external and internal growth. The connectedness and comfort that I feel among the Trybal community are what have primarily catalyzed my growth—aside from the gained knowledge about bees and composting, for example. Furthermore, my maturation at Trybal has inspired in me a genuine interest of taking on gardening even while away from the Trybal community gardens, ultimately continuing a place of self-growth.

What I have gleaned thus far from being a member of this community and working in these gardens is that learning, value in education, and personal transformation goes beyond just knowing technicalities and logistics. In broader terms, an understanding of how people are connected with one another and the earth is a lesson that I intend to continue to probe in order to feed such aspects of growth. In being involved in Trybal Revival, I am coming to learn that there is a great deal more that goes into fostering a healthy self than meets the eye.