GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME
By Rod

This sketch was used at the end of a series on the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and uses the vehicle of the long running TV programme to illustrate the point of the growth that only the Spirit can bring.

CAST
Bob Flowerpot      The presenter
Bill Waterbutts    Expert gardener.
Bunny Warren       Expert gardener
Bronwyn Trellis    Member of audience with ‘problem’ plant

Bob     Hello everyone, and welcome to Gardeners’ Question Time. My name is Bob Flowerpot, and I will be in the chair this evening.

Bill    I hope it’s not a deckchair.

Bunny   Or a sun lounger.

Bob     Yes, thank you. That leads me to introduce our two experts who will be joining me on the panel. On the right is Bunny Warren.

Bunny   Good evening.

Bob     And on the left is Bill Waterbutts.

Bill    ’Ullo.

Bob     Before we start, I’ve asked our two experts to give us some tips based on their vast knowledge of gardening. What have you got for us Bunny?

Bunny   Well mine is to do with vines. There is a saying that “A withered vine brings forth no fruit.”

Bob     You can’t argue with that.

Bunny   And so my tip is, “When you prune – prune hard”. Be ruthless – and throw away the branches you have pruned.

Bob     Thank you, Bunny. And what’s your suggestion, Bill?

Bill    Well mine is to do with sowing.

[Type text]
Bunny   I didn't know you were an expert on dress-making as well.

Bill    Sowing seed. And there is an old proverb which says, “A man must put grain in the ground before he can cut the harvest”.

Bob     Seems reasonable.

Bunny   It applies to women as well.

Bill    Anyway, my tip is, “When you are sowing seed, don’t bother scattering it on the path – because all you will end up doing is feeding the birds”.

Bob     OK, thanks for that, Bill. Well, now it’s time for our first question. I believe it is from a Mrs Bronwyn Trellis of North Wales. Hello, Bronwyn.

Bronwyn Hello everyone.

Bob     What’s your question for our experts to consider?

Bronwyn [Producing plant in pot] I’ve got this fruit tree you see, and it just doesn’t bear any fruit. It’s a dead loss.

Bob     No, I can see that. It’s not in a great state is it? What do you reckon Bunny?

Bunny   Well, it’s certainly got a lot of problems. Looking closely it looks to have Greenfly – and there’s Mildew here.

Bill    I can see some Grey Mould, and I reckon it’s also suffering from Honey Fungus.

Bunny   It is not in a good way. It looks to have Bacterial Canker and a nasty touch of Box Blight.

Bill    As well as Blackleg and Scab.

Bob     Aren’t they the same thing?

Bill    Only if you are a member of a Trade Union.

Bunny   And feeling into the soil, I’d say it’s got terrible Root Rot.

[Type text]
Bronwyn: So is it completely beyond hope of recovery? Is it a tree that is naturally blighted?

Bill: Not at all. The secret is always in the soil.

Bunny: Too right. If you can get the roots well nourished the rest will follow.

Bronwyn: So what would you recommend?

Bill: I always swear by Miracle-Gro Multipurpose Fruit Compost.

Bunny: I agree. Put some of that in your pot and the tree will bear fruit in abundance.

Bronwyn: What sort of fruit can I expect?

Bill: All sorts – apples, pears, lemons.

Bunny: Kiwi fruit, raspberry, strawberries.

Bill: Bananas, oranges, blueberries.

Bronwyn: Wow! All of those. That really would be a miracle. That’s cheered me up no end.

Bill, Bob & Bunny: That’s the spirit!

THE END