

Back in the garden...with chairs.

How many times have you given out in the garden while working in the heat?

I take a chair or two or three with me when working in the yard and taking frequent breaks. This is easier on me resting close to my work area instead of wasting time and energy walking back and forth to the sitting area.

Not long ago a fellow Master Gardener shared ideas with me suggesting the use of materials I had laying around. This inspired me and my vision of my backyard became much clearer.

The next day I spent one whole day in the backyard moving blocks, potted plants, and a few pieces of lawn furniture. I de-cluttered and rearranged my patio. This was in June during that 95-98degree heat starting in the cooler morning hours and continuing through the heat of the afternoon. The heat index had to have been 100 plus.

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Being somewhat of a cheapskate in areas of décor, I don't have any of that really nice lawn or patio furniture. My pieces are at least three years old, plastic, color-faded, and dingy from years of weather exposure. You know just rustic enough to make any Redneck proud. However, my plastic chairs do come in very handy when I garden. While working in the beds; whether it be weeding or planting, I enthusiastically *tote* a chair to the area where I'm planning to work, and that's always in the shade. When I get tired or really hot I sit down and look over the project or admire what's been accomplished.

At the end of this particular day, I discovered I had a plastic chair in every area of the yard that I had been working in. I find a grand total of 5 and being a bit ADD (and it seems to get worse as I get older) I realized how much I must have jumped around from one project to another. Tired, hot, and my feet hurt, I checked my progress finding that I had accomplished all but one project to my satisfaction. By now I'm grateful for the light weight plastic chairs as I wearily *drag* them back to the patio area.

So you don't have to be a Redneck to garden in the south's summer heat, but trust me...it helps.