

**Welcome to the Berry Patch!!!**  
**Lessons From the Berry Patch #1 –**  
**05-05-2024 Life is Short, Pick Berries While You Can!**

In the spring of 2006, we had moved our office to a new location. Just across the fence from our office there were a few acres of land that were completely growing wild. I noticed all the berry vines over there. And those vines were loaded with berries. If there is anything I like to do, it is to pick berries. For the next couple of weeks, I went to work early to pick berries. I spent my lunch break out there picking berries. I stayed late after work to pick berries. We stayed at that location for about five years, and each year I looked forward to berry season. We moved from there in 2012 and I lost my awesome berry patch. It's been slim pickings since then.

Our place got hit by a tornado on March 15, and I have been in cleanup mode ever since. One barn had a big tree fall on it and the hail damaged our roof. Those are pretty easily fixed. The big problem for me is that we had three big trees knocked down in the yard and probably a dozen trees knocked down in the pasture. The family gathered and helped clean up the yard, so it is mostly back in shape. The pasture is one of my favorite places to be, so I have been spending a lot of time out there cleaning up for the past few weeks.

Then my brother Dennis called and told me that he had a bumper crop of berries on his place. He and I went out and we picked about a gallon and a half each. It was a great day!

Last Saturday morning while Pat and I were having coffee I said, "I'd sure like to go pick some berries today, but there is so much work to be done in the pasture... Pat said, "David that pasture will still be here next week, but those berries will be gone pretty soon. You ought to go pick some berries." Wow, did she really just say that? Now you know why I love Pat so much, not only is she lovely and poised, she is a wise woman. So off I went to the Berry Patch – I got another gallon and a half that day! That will make three berry cobblers!

Pat's words are a good lesson for us today. We all have things to do. We have those things that are always there, requiring our attention. We also have those things that are rare and temporary. When those rare opportunities present themselves, we should not miss them. You can catch up the routine

chores later. Like it or not, there will come the day, sooner than you think, when your child will not want to play checkers with you anymore.

Psalm 39 reminds us:

<sup>4</sup>“ LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.  
Remind me that my days are numbered—  
how fleeting my life is.

<sup>5</sup>You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand.  
My entire lifetime is just a moment to you;  
at best, each of us is but a breath.” <sup>1</sup>

Don't miss those rare opportunities out there in The Berry Patch!

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