

How Do I Love Thee*

By Joni Raymond, Olathe Gardeners of America

I love thee in **January** when all I find in my mail box besides bills is seed catalogues, nothing else will fit!

I love thee in **February** when you pay \$69.95 for a dozen roses that are the same as the ones you grow for me all summer long!

I love thee in **March** when I can't see out my big picture windows because they happen to face south, and therefore only seedlings may enjoy the sun and warmth of them!

I love thee in **April** when I have to help plant in the cold so you can get an early start on your garden. Every gardener has to have the first tomato or the first sweet corn!

I love thee in **May** when you think that Memorial day weekend is just extra time to spend in your garden. Why bother with the dead? We should be tending the living!

I love thee in **June** when the mower breaks down, over heats, or burns up. I know we all like grass but does it have to keep growing?

I love thee in **July** when the days are long and your sense of freedom is measured in the time you have to spend in your garden.

I love thee in **August** when the droughts hit and you would give your last drops of water to your drying plants.

I love thee in **September** when Labor Day gets its name from countless cool evenings rushing to get that last garden and tree planted.

I love thee in **October** as we buy our Jack-O-Lanterns from the grocery store because ours are either not ripe, or all succumbed to squash bugs.

I love thee in **November** when we give thanks for the many blessings the earth has given us through your careful tending.

I love thee in **December** when in the midst of a cold frozen world you find the green of life all over our home.

How do I love thee? Through all the year, through all the seasons, through rain, shine or snow. In flowers, in vegetables, in any plant that grows. Your eyes glint of the sunlight, your hair smells of the wind. How do I love

thee? Time and time again!

* As told by a gardener's spouse

Joni Raymond is a lifetime member of the Olathe Gardeners of America. Together with her husband they founded a small garden club and became affiliated with TGOA. Between the two of them they have five children. Raymond keeps busy with her family, working, going to school and volunteering. This copywritten poetry is published in its entirety on the web site for your enjoyment.

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