Shmanners 310: Community Gardens

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening... to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette.

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How do you know that a farmer is great?

Teresa: I don't know. How?

Travis: 'Cause he's out standing in his field.

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. That's a good one.

Travis: Thanks.

Teresa: I forgot about that one. That's an oldie but a goodie.

Travis: I like that joke. I should've done that before the show started.

Teresa: I mean, yeah, but...

Travis: Now it's there. You get it, everybody. We're talking about community gardens.

Teresa: We are.

Travis: I'm a gardener. Did you know that? I like to garden.

Teresa: You are, sort of.

Travis: What? What do you mean, sort of?

Teresa: Well, so—

Travis: I plant plants.

Teresa: You do plant... plants. We— we haven't gotten many fruits of your labor.

Travis: We have eaten strawberries that I grew. We have eaten herbs that I have grown. We, uh... have eaten tomatoes that I've grown. And I grow a lot of flowers.

Teresa: Okay. You grow a lot of flowers. A lot of those things that we have eaten are in the single digits.

Travis: Okay, madam! I didn't realize that I was on trial here! [laughs]

Teresa: You continue to expand your knowledge and your... beds, every year.

Travis: The problem that I did last year was I— I have two raised beds, and I tried to fill it with, like, everything I wanted to grow. This year I've narrowed it down. I've got squash in, like, three pots that I did seedlings in. I have carrots in three pots. I got tomatoes in four. And then— what else is in there? Some peppers. And then I got sunflowers, but those are growing somewhere else, right? And then all the flowers are in the front. I've limited it so I can focus in—

Teresa: Listen, baby. I'm not trying to put you on blast. I'm just—

Travis: I know, but I want the people at home to have respect for me for once.

Teresa: [laughs quietly] The problem is, we have spent a lot of time in the last five years raising people. And not...

Travis: That kind of sounds like zombies for a second. I don't think that's what you were going for, but...

Teresa: [laughs] And not raising plants. But we can get there.

Travis: This is why I like bulbs. Bulbs are a perfect ADHD gardener's dream. 'Cause it's like, you know what? Right now at this moment, I'm very focused on doing this thing. And then it's like, "Oh, I forgot." People ask me, like, "What'd you plant?" I'm like, "Oh, I have no idea. I don't know."

And then it's just like, four months later, five months later, poof! Flowers? What?!

Teresa: So, my parents had— my parents had two gardens growing up, one which got only about four hours of sunlight, and the other one got, like, eight hours of sunlight.

Travis: Oh, I forgot to talk about the plant that I'm most proud of that you cannot deny is doing great. My raspberries?

Teresa: Oh, totally. That's true.

Travis: That thing is getting big. I'm gonna have to put it in the ground somewhere.

Teresa: You are gonna have to put it in the ground.

Travis: It's at this point, I would say, side to side, six feet wide.

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: Yeah. Gotta do something with that.

Teresa: So, uh, my parents, like I said, they also have a perimeter of black raspberry bushes. Um, so what we'll have to do is divide that plant, and then put it along a fence line somewhere.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: That's the best thing to do about raspberries.

Travis: Did your parents ever refer to them as blaspberries?

Teresa: [through laughter] No. No, they didn't.

Travis: 'Cause raspberries are red raspberries, right? And blaspberries are black raspberries.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, but my parents also took care of my grandparents' garden for a very long time. Um, and I think that that is both indicative of the baby boomer mentality, and also it is one of those things where, like, you create a garden and you create a legacy.

Travis: Sure. Oh, isn't that what a legacy is? Is planting seeds for plants you won't see— something like that, from *Hamilton*, right?

Teresa: Something like that.

Travis: Plants and seeds and... seeds in a garden you won't grow— who— I won't eat the tomatoes.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I think is the quote.

Teresa: Don't tell Lin you can't remember.

Travis: I think it's— if I remember correctly, it's "Plant tomatoes you don't get to eat." That's the famous line from *Hamilton*.

Teresa: Something like that.

Travis: [stammers] Planting flowers you won't get to eat, 'cause the bears come along and they eat...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I think that's it? The crows come in—

Teresa: Spray a little Tabasco on those.

Travis: That's the line. I think it was like, "Put some Tabasco on your tomatoes. Hi, I'm Lin Manuel Miranda."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Gardening expert. You know, a little clove oil on that... " okay.

Teresa: I, um— so we always had more green beans than we could possibly eat. My grandparents and my mom were very good at canning things. Um, always had—

Travis: Your mom makes a lot of jelly and jams as well, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. She does not tend to grow her own fruit. She does mostly vegetables.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, but she will go to those "you pick it" places to get fruit. I mean, except for the black raspberries.

Travis: The blaspberries.

Teresa: The blaspberries.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: Which, um— which you really can't get rid of. They are— they are pervasive. Um, and so it was always tomatoes and peppers. She did asparagus for a while? Um, which are funny, because if you let them go past asparagus stage, they turn into tiny trees.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: What about your experience with garden?

Travis: Like, growing up?

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Ours was always flowers in the front. And frankly, uh, for my mom it was much more aesthetic. So it was always annuals? Are annuals the ones you have to plant every year?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: She would go get those, like, trays of flowers in, like, the black— you know, the black plastic, like, almost like ice cream— er, ice cube trays?

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: Um, and then, like, have those around. And in the back we did for a while have a very lovely, large backyard. Um, and then at one point we put in a little, like, backroom addition in our family room, and my dad for some reason with, like, the, I would say, 8 foot by, like, 15 foot yard that was left, my dad was like, "You know what we need? A cement basketball court. 'Cause of my kids, the ballers."

Teresa: Aww, he had three boys. He was—

Travis: We were all of age enough that he knew better at that point.

Teresa: It was aspirational.

Travis: It was depressingly aspirational, 'cause I think when this happened Griffin was already, like, 12. And so it was, like, clearly, dad.

Teresa: He wanted somebody to shoot hoops with.

Travis: I think it was the neighborhood kids would come around.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: They used it way more. But, uh— so after that— we never really did vegetables, but my grandmother did. My mom's mom was very much like, she had, you know, a vegetable garden and everything nearby. Um, but we've grown tomatoes before. Me, like, and you, to some degree, I guess.

Teresa: Yes, yes.

Travis: But I'm much more into flowers, because we like the, like, butterflies and bees and birds and stuff. The problem with, as you—

Teresa: Before children, I was more into growing food.

Travis: Yeah. The problem is, I think to make a significant dent in your grocery bills, you gotta, like, have a garden going. You can't just be like, "I got these two— like, two foot by four foot raised beds," which is what I have.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Speaking of... community garden. Which I'm gonna guess just from the two words is a garden run by the community?

Teresa: Hmm, yeah.

Travis: Okay, great. I nailed it. Thanks, everybody! This has been *Shmanners*. Join us again next week, bye!

Teresa: [laughs] Um, a lot of this guidance comes from the American Community Guarding Asso— Gardening Association, and a very lovely Smithsonian magazine community garden website, so. It's pretty cool. The—

Travis: I should also mention—

Teresa: Oh, what? What?

Travis: —because on community gardening, like, the one reference I have for community gardening so clear in my head is the one from *Bob's Burgers*.

Teresa: *Bob's Burgers*!

Travis: Where he gets a spot in the community garden, and in that sense I think of community gardens— and maybe I'm wrong— as like, if you're in a, like, you know, downtown or, like, more urban area where you, like, live in apartment buildings or you live in, like, buildings that don't have yards or whatever, a community garden is like a plot of land that everyone can share, because you don't have yards and gardens and stuff at home?

Teresa: Oh, that's absolutely true.

Travis: Nailed it.

Teresa: Um, so it can be a... a community garden is a piece of land gardened or cultivated by a group of people, which you can do individually or collectively. Um, and so they can be done on private or public land. You can grow fruits, and herbs, and flowers. But mostly, historically, it's vegetables.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and so, around the world, community gardens exist in various forms. Uh, can be a neighborhood thing, right? Um, if you live in a high rise, you can even do community gardens on balconies or rooftops. And, you know, as many different styles of buildings and cities and people, are different types of community gardens.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: We are going to condense community gardens into three different waves in the history of the US here. Um, so with the Industrial Revolution, uh, there was rapid urbanization, both in Europe and in North America, and the gardens were called *jardin d'ouvrier*.

Travis: One more time? *Jardin*...

Teresa: *Jardin d'ouvrier*.

Travis: *D'ouvrier*.

Teresa: *D'ouvi— d'ouvrier*.

Travis: *D'ouvrier*.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Worker's garden.

Travis: Got it.

Teresa: And the second wave helped, during the World Wars, which were part of liberty gardens or victory gardens. And then the third one happened in the 70's. Um, during the OPEC crisis. So— uh, and, you know, we're currently in the fourth wave of community garden hype, brought on by the isolation and the kind of, like, retreat of people into their homes. And, you know, also this second, there's, like, inflation in stuff that we are—

Travis: Also that.

Teresa: —that we're working with.

Travis: I mean, I will say, like, I've done flowers for a while, but the idea of, like, growing vegetables and, like, really focusing on plants and gardening, was in the last two years, yes.

Teresa: Uh, recessions are actually pretty well associated with community gardens, especially in the US, because in the 1890's, the United States decided to create an extensively mu— mu— municipally—

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Ooh! Sponsored gardening program.

Travis: Hey, you nailed it, though.

Teresa: Thank you. In Detroit especially, which is hailed as the first city in the US to do this, the mayor started it because of their recession left many of the city's workers, particularly of Polish and German descent or immigrants, uh, were unemployed and hungry.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And there were multiple vacant lots to fill. Um, and so this are known as Pingree's Potato Patches.

Travis: Okay, I like that. Also sounds like a good way, like, if you want to quit eating potatoes and you're like, "I'm on a patch." Right?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I got these potato patches.

Teresa: Yes? So they, uh—

Travis: "Hey, do you want some chips?" "I'm trying to quit."

Teresa: [laughs] Potato patch.

Travis: "I got— I'm on— I can't."

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, so it provided these unemployed people with plots of land on vacant city lots, seeds and tools, and instructions in three languages, which is pretty cool. Um, and—

Travis: Also useful because, like, [stammers]— in Cincinnati we see this a lot, too. Where, like, a building will be demolished, or— and a lot will sit empty or something, and it will start to look gross, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And you have, like, broken rocks in there or, like, you know, hunks of whatever. And so to have people, like, "We're gonna go through, clean it up, and plant plants in there." And it looks nice!

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: It looks nice! And you grow food! And it gives you something to do. It's fun.

Teresa: Right. And these gardens don't solve everything. Pingree's plan specifically could not fill all of the demand. But it was very successful in alleviating some of the hunger and poverty at the time in Detroit. Um, but it was successful enough that other cities, all the way from Boston to San Francisco, developed similar plans.

Travis: Well, I would love to talk more about this. But first, how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

Travis: Now, Teresa, this is gonna feel like forever ago.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But do you remember back when... it used to be the middle of the night. You were sleeping, having a great dream. And then, "Wah! Wah!" Here comes one of our kids, crying in the middle of the night, needing a diaper change.

Teresa: [sighs] Oh, man. Needing a diaper change.

Travis: Right? And do you remember what, like, the zombified feeling of, like, "Is this—" and it's like, "Oh no, I wrapped up the pillow."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And then you gotta do it again?

Teresa: Uh, I've never wrapped up the pillow.

Travis: Oh no, [laughs] what? [laughs] What? Yeah, no. What? I've never— so, this week we want to write a thank you note to our sponsor, Coterie. So, Coterie is there to help you... try to get a better night's sleep. Right?

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: So, here's the way that they will help with that, because they make diapers that help improve sleep for parents and baby.

Teresa: That makes a lot of sense. 'Cause I'm not wearing the diaper, but the baby is.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: And having a full diaper is one of the things that wakes the kids up.

Travis: Right. And Coterie has up to two times more liquid capacity and up to four times faster moisture wicking versus other brands. Their diapers are made with clothing grade material, which gives your baby a cashmere-like feel, so that they're more comfortable for longer, day and night. They're dermatologist tested, plus Coterie wipes are National Eczema Association approved, so it helps reduce diaper rash as well. And they have been awarded Best Diaper and Wipes by both The Bump and Parents.com.

So, right now Coterie is partnering with our podcast to offer you 20% off your first order, plus free shipping at coterie.com/shmanners. That's Coterie, spelled C-O-T-E-R-I-E.com/shmanners for 20% off, and free shipping. Coterie.com/shmanners.

We also want to say thank you to Bombas. Bombas's mission is simple. Make the— I don't know why I started to say that like it was, like, a space, like, ranger...

Teresa: I mean, it's a mission.

Travis: That is true. It is a lot like *Star Trek*. "[Picard impression] Our mission." Right? "[Picard impression] Bombas's mission is simple."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Make the most comfortable clothes ever—"

Teresa: Oh— oh— okay, I don't— I don't know where you're going with that, but—

Travis: Okay. And match every item sold with an equal item donated. So when you buy Bombas, you are also giving to someone in need.

Teresa: It is nice to open up that box of socks and be like, this is good for m and good for somebody else.

Travis: Yeah. And sometimes you open a box of rocks, and locks, and...

Teresa: [laughs] But only Dr. Seuss gives you those.

Travis: That's true. Everything they make is soft, seamless, tagless, and has a luxuriously cozy feel. That's true. I just ordered a bunch of pair of socks. Paid my own money for 'em. These were not, like, given-to-me socks. These were like, "I love these socks." So I got 'em.

Bombas t-shirts are made with thoughtful design features, like invisible seams, soft fabrics, and the perfect weight, so they hang just right.

Teresa: I'm wearing one right now. Like it.

Travis: Their underwear has a barely there feeling with support that might make you forget they're even there, in a good way. And did you know that socks, underwear, and t-shirts are the three most-requested clothing items at homeless shelters? That's why Bombas donates one for every item you buy. So, go to bombas.com/shmanners and get 20% off your first purchase. That's B-O-M-B-A-S.com/shmanners for 20% off. Bombas.com/shmanners.

[music plays]

Speaker One: Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this year's MaxFunDrive! If you're a member who wants to purchase additional patches, our

annual shop is now live! The proceeds for this year's sale will be going to Trans Lifeline.

Any time is a good time to donate to Trans Lifeline, but this year it feels particularly important. Trans Lifeline is a nonprofit for the trans community, by the trans community. We're grateful that with your support, we'll be able to help Trans Lifeline connect trans folks to the support and resources they need to survive and thrive.

The sale will run until Friday, May 20th. Folks at the $10 monthly level and above will have access to all of the patches from the drive. We also have a special network patch, starring Nutsy, that all members can purchase. For more information on Trans Lifeline, visit translifeline.org. And for more info on the patches, head to Maximumfun.org/patchsale.

[chord]

[music plays]

Alden: Hey! This is Alden Ford.

Moujan: And Moujan Zolfaghari.

Alden: And we are here with all the other creators of *Mission to Zyxx*!

Group: Hello, hi, hey.

Speaker Three: You're not gonna say our names, too?

Moujan: No, no. It's a short promo? Yeah.

Alden: 'Cause— yeah, sort of speed through it.

Speaker Three: [simultaneously] Okay.

Moujan: Now, with the end of our fifth and final season just a few weeks away, we want to say thank you to Maximum Fun, and to every single one of you who has listened to and supported *Mission to Zyxx*.

Alden: Thank you. And if you haven't checked it out, well, *Mission to Zyxx* is an improvised space opera with Blockbuster quality sound design, a score performed by an actual 60-piece orchestra, and hilarious guest comedians on every episode. And as our final episodes air, now is the... perfect time to jump on board?

Moujan: Mm-hmm! That's *Mission to Zyxx*, Z-Y-X-X, on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. So, community gardens, sweeping the nation.

Teresa: That's right. Um, so there were— there were some very successful gardens. They mostly tapered off around 1900. Um, but Philadelphia actually has a historical garden that lasted into the 1920's, which is great.

So, while the use of gardens by adults and families started to wane, these gardens started to serve another purpose: children's gardens.

Travis: Ohh, okay.

Teresa: Um, so urban reformers began to create school gardens for children, because they feared that urban life would have a negative effect on them. You know, for the children, they needed the green grasses to romp and roam.

Travis: Sure, sure, yeah.

Teresa: Um, and the gardens, they hoped, would be a way to connect them with nature, teach about responsibility, and improve even their physical health. Um, they were designed specifically to promote efficiency and individual responsibility, teaching children to put in the hard work to, quite literally, enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Travis: I see. That is also a thing, man. When growing the tomatoes last year and the strawberries last year, Bebe, every day, when she'd go outside, she would be like, "Are they ready? Can I pull the— can I do this? I'm gonna eat it! Can I eat it?"

And I'd be like, "No, that's dirt! Don't eat that."

And she— it took her a while to learn the difference.

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, one of the advocates, the early advocates of children's gardening was Fannie Griscom Parsons. Um, and she had a very similar experience. So, she said that simply to grow a few vegetables and flowers wasn't her aim. She wanted the garden to be used as, quote, "A means to show how willing and anxious children are to work," and to teach them in their work some of the civic virtues, such as private care of public property, economy, honesty, application of concentration, self-government, civic pride, justice, dignity of labor and love of nature. I mean, what can't you teach a kid with a garden these days?

Travis: Um... [sighs] how to drive?

Teresa: I guess... you're right?

Travis: Yeah. That that, Fannie!

Teresa: Today, many teachers still embrace gardens as a learning tool, although the motivations are a little different. Um, it's more used to promote nutrition and environmental stewardship, um, and teach topics, you know, as in science and art, literature and history, and, you know, have a hands-on experience for the kids, who often are, you know, watching videos or— or that's what they like to do, of course, 'cause videos are awesome. Um, or, you know, sitting inside instruction. This is a way to get children out into the world.

Travis: Did you— growing up, did you have the, like, uh, either in class or some other learning-type environment the, like, plant this seed, watch this thing, do this deal?

Teresa: Absolutely. Absolutely.

Travis: Was it sunflowers? 'Cause it was sunflowers for me. 'Cause sunflowers grow, like, really fast and really noticeable.

Teresa: No, I think it was some type of bean.

Travis: Some type of bean, you say?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I like the way you said that.

Teresa: I remember specifically where we would— we put the bean between two wet paper towels, and then taped it up on the window, so you could kind of see the bean as it grew? Yeah.

Travis: Did you— wait. Now, this is different from that. But did you ever do, like, caterpillars and butterfly stuff?

Teresa: Hmm...

Travis: We—

Teresa: Maybe. Maybe had one of those, like, butterfly boxes where they all kind of, like, hang out together and, like, you feed the caterpillars and stuff. I remember— because when I was younger, the suburb I grew up in was still very much farmland, uh, raising chicks.

Travis: That's— okay, can I just say? Butterflies are beautiful. That's way cooler. We never raised chicks. But we did do butterflies and release 'em into a butterfly garden. That was pretty cool.

Teresa: That's nice.

Travis: And I bet they're still there today.

Teresa: Yes...

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, so then the next wave of community gardens began to pop out around the first World War. Um, because, you know, people needed food, right? And the US entered the World War in 1917, um, and Europe was already in the midst of a food shortage. Um, and so the War Garden Commission was created,

uh, and called on citizens to become, quote, "Soldiers of the soil," planting liberty gardens or war gardens, to meet some of their own domestic need for food.

Travis: Sure. Sure.

Teresa: Uh, the war garden—

Travis: There was a lot of branding during that time.

Teresa: Absolutely. [through laughter] There was.

Travis: I mean, listen. It hasn't all stopped, right? There's still a lot of freedom and justice talk or whatever. I just like that they were so very blatant about it then.

Teresa: Oh, there was no veiled— veiled branding. It was all very on point. Um, the War Garden Commission reported there were 3.5 million war gardens in 1917, uh, which produced some 350 million dollars worth of crops.

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: That's— I mean, that's pretty awesome. So, the War Garden Commission didn't, like, collect the food and redistribute it. They were branded as war gardens, but they were community gardens. You grew the food, you ate the food.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: I will say, though. I mean, not to be, uh—[stammers]— I don't know, pessimistic about it? Is that it? Or, uh... I don't know, judgmental? But— that's great, but it's also an indicator that I want to be like, "Hey. How about the government focus more on feeding people?" I know you had a lot goin' on, guys. But that idea of like, "Hey. So, we're gonna need you guys to work on feeding yourselves. Thanks!" is just... come on. Come on.

Teresa: Um, so then the Great Depression of the 1930's came in. That's another wave. Um, and of course this was the time when most Americans were in need of food. Um, and so just like the vacant lot cultivation in the 1890's, sustenance gardens in the cities especially began in the 1930's, and they were specifically created in response to the economic crisis, and to help meet residents' immediate need for food.

Um, and then World War II, we had another one. Um, you know, it was the— at first, the government was like, "Meh, we don't really need to do that."

But then... because they needed to kind of, like, morale boosting effects of what every citizen could do, right? They started again a national gardening campaign. Um, and, you know, victory gardens again.

Here's another American Girl doll, Molly. Molly had a victory garden.

Travis: Did she?

Teresa: She sure did!

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Uh, so by 1944, between 18 to 20 million families with victory gardens were providing up to 40% of the vegetables in America.

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: That's— I mean... it's unfathomable, really. The large scale of participation.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: The kind of, like, the group organization of victory gardens and war gardens and things like that dropped off.

Travis: Well, also when people moved back, like, we had a big move to suburbs, right?

Teresa: Right, exactly.

Travis: And so everybody had, like, their own yards and lawns and stuff, right?

Teresa: And their own gardens.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: So, um, having your own small backyard garden was a part of the American dream, the status symbol for the baby boom, but like everything, it's, uh— it's very much a swinging pendulum. So by the 60's and 70's, people and grassroots organizations came together to build more community gardens that promote environmental stewardship and revitalize sort of the urban neighborhoods that were—

Travis: That doesn't surprise me at all that that happened in the 60's and 70's, yes.

Teresa: That were affected by disinvencement— sorry, disinvestment. So, like, everybody moving to the suburbs kind of made it so that the cities were more of, like, not a family place, right? And that American dream of your little duplex, and your garden, and your car, and all that kind of stuff kind of squashed investment in the cities. So, urban gardens were started so that everybody could have a little piece of that pie.

Travis: Is that where we are now?

Teresa: Um, no. It— it waned again during the 80's and 90's. Um, but we're back up.

Travis: Oh, I bet it was that 80's and 90's go-go lifestyle. Who has time for gardening, right? I'm— I'm sowing seeds of success!

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: I'm out here, I'm growing my stocks, baby! And then I put on cool sunglasses, if you can picture it, and I've got, like, a keyboard necktie.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And, uh, s— I look— hey, can I tell you? I look really good. I look really cool, like a shark. Like a business shark!

Teresa: [laughs] Oh boy.

Travis: I don't have time for eatin' vegetables! I'm chompin' the competition. The chompetition. Hi, I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: That reminds me of another *Bob's Burgers*. "Business Monster."

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: Um, okay. So, today...

Travis: I said chompetition, and I feel like it didn't even register for you.

Teresa: [laughs] You're right. Say it again.

Travis: Chompetition.

Teresa: Yeah, good one.

Travis: 'Cause I'm chomping the competition, it's chompetition.

Teresa: Right. Yes. Um, now a community garden is not only a testament to community care and mutual aid, it's also almost a radical act of protest and activism. Um, so you're combining and sharing resources, which is inherently anti-capitalist, and you're actively protesting climate change by cultivating the land and bringing back native plants.

Uh, there has become a new word that I wanted to mention. Um, which is called an agrihood. Which—

Travis: Okay, agrihood.

Teresa: Agrihood. Which centers around an edible garden, with easily accessible, affordable produce, which is offered to community— the community, meaning the neighborhood residents. Um, and the garden magazine cites that this particular form of urban farm provides fresh, free produce to 2000 households within some two square miles of the farm.

Travis: That's amazing, especially if it's, like, in a food desert. That's incredible.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Now we can go to some questions. [laughs]

Travis: Okay. Bee asks:

"If the community garden is one that's for anyone to take from, what is the appropriate amount of food to take at one time?"

Teresa: Um, well, it depends on your garden, right? So, every community garden has their own set of, like, bylaws and agreements. Um, if there is food that's available to take, it is usually set up on some sort of, like, take-what-you-need table or stand. It's not something where you can just go through— they don't say, like, "Go through the garden with your grocery basket" or whatever it is, right? Um, so usually it's on some sort of table, and you pay what you can, or there might even been prices set up. Um, but the idea is to take only what you'll eat.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Right? This isn't to stock your refrigerator. This is to make it so that it's a communal event. Um, so I would say... one to two meals' worth of food.

Travis: Okay. Like, something you'll eat in the next day or two?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Uh, Sharp Teeth asks:

"Can I pull weeds from my garden neighbor's plot?"

Teresa: Um, again, you should check with your community bylaws, as far as that goes. Um, but I don't think that there's anything wrong with communicating that offer.

Travis: Yes. Um, I think make the offer to say, like, "Hey, if I'm down—" if you see them working next to you or whatever and you're like, "Hey, if I'm ever down here and I see some weeds growing, do you want me to pull them for you?"

Evanescence asks:

"If someone's plants need watering, are you allowed to water the plants for them?"

I think that would be another thing to ask, right?

Teresa: Actually I would say water is a different thing, because you don't know what their watering schedule is.

Travis: Yes, that's why I'm saying ask.

Teresa: Oh, okay, yes, yes.

Travis: And say— like, ask and say "Hey, if I'm ever down here and they look thirsty, do you want me to water 'em?" 'Cause it might be that they come, like, every three days or every two days or whatever, and you just came on the off day.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And you might accidentally over-water them, 'cause they'd come the next day, not knowing that you watered 'em. All that stuff.

Teresa: Right. So it's very important. One of the great things about these neighborhood gardens is the idea of getting to know your neighbors again, right? We've spent several decades now, um, becoming very insular, and I don't think

that the pandemic really helped. Um, but community gardens are about community. This is— if you don't want to participate in meeting your neighbors, that's fine. But if you do want to, the community garden is a great place to go to do it.

Travis: Uh, this question is from Aaron.

"Are community gardens open for anyone to take from them, or only the people who contributed to planting and caring for them?"

Teresa: Usually it is set up so that the people who plant and take care of it enjoy the fruits of their own labor, or there's some sort of, like, community swap within the people so that, you know, you don't have everyone planting zucchini, and so there's just [laughs] zucchini as far as the eye can see.

Um, so usually it's about that group of people, but every community garden is different. Usually there is— it is encouraged for there to be some sort of, like, community board that posts the laws, maybe schedules, maybe the community, like, tenants and things like that, who's there.

Um, and so instead of just walking in and thinking that "I need some food, I should take some food," Go and meet some of the people, uh, see if you can find that board, or maybe they have a website or something, and figure out what exactly the rules are.

Travis: Uh, so this last question is from Josh, and I want to preface it by actually reading the last line.

"This is in Canada, so it's legal."

Josh asks:

"As a weed enthusiast, is it rude to plant seeds of my favorite life spice in the garden?"

Teresa: Um... that, again, is something that if it is a community garden, not on your own private land, um, you need to pay attention to what their laws are. Um, there might be, as far as, like, uh... where marijuana is legal, it also is a little bit

kind of invasive as far as, like, where it grows. It kind of takes over plots, as I understand. It is something that in the US here grows kind of, like, rampant on hillsides and such. Um, so it's not difficult to grow. So it should be contained pretty easily. I mean, it should be contained, and it easily can grow outside of that containment.

Travis: But ask first.

Teresa: Ask first!

Travis: Okay! That's gonna do it for us. Thank you for listening. Uh, thank you to Alex, our researcher, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to Rachel, our editor, without whom we would not be able to make this show. And thank you to you for listening. We could make this show without you, but why?

Um, we want to say thank you to our Max Fun home. Thank you to everybody who supported us in this year's Max Fun Drive. Uh, it means a lot to us. Um, and we got a lot of great tweets about supporting us, and a lot of wonderful people coming out to be new, upgrading, and boosting members, and it just means the world to us. We couldn't do it without your support. Thank you so much.

Um, thank you to Teresa for being my wife. Happy birthday this week, Teresa.

Teresa: Aw, thanks! I have my birthday on Tuesday.

Travis: That's right. Um, and I love you, and thank you for being married to me. Um, happy birthday, you're great. Thank you for hosting the show with me. I really appreciate you.

Teresa: Thank you.

Travis: Um, let's see. What else do we say?

Teresa: We always say thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. That's @shmannerscast. And that's where we got these great listener questions.

Travis: Also, I posted 'em on Instagram, so maybe you'll see me do it on Instagram, too. We'll start— we should start a *Shmanners* Instagram.

Teresa: Nice. And thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today. Thank you to Alex again for being at the ready for our email, which is shmannerscast@gmail.com. That's where we get a lot of our listener-suggested topics, so please send those in. Also, always send in your idioms. We love it! Uh, say hi to Alex when you write an email. She reads every one.

Um, I would also like to say that if you would like some tips and ideas on how to start your own community garden, you should go to the American Community Gardening Association website, and they have lots, I mean literally pages and pages, of how to, um, do all the legal stuff, what you should go about for creating, like, a tenant garden, things like that. So go and check that out if you're interested in your area.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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