

## WHAT COLOR IS YOUR THUMB?

Some of you are jumping up saying “I have a green thumb!”, while others are saying “definitely not a green thumb”. But let’s see...

My parents were from Switzerland, but they moved to Brazil where I was born and raised (with a swiss culture). So even though I was born in Brazil, they called me “Gringa” there – a slang word for foreigner. When I lived in Switzerland for a year, they considered me a foreigner. Then I moved to the USA and was considered an “alien”...

And when people started telling me that I have a “green thumb” after a few years living here, I thought “WOW! Do I really look like a green little alien from Mars??”



But anyway, I definitely didn’t start out as a big plant person, just no interest.

However, I eventually started getting a few house plants. Many died, few survived. Then we bought a house with a garden and suddenly the possibilities were there... and I started planting things simply because it was a plant or a flower I liked. Again, many died, some survived somehow. Then I got the idea of growing strawberries and just put them in a pot, but they died. How about cherry tomatoes? Sounded like a cool idea. That summer my husband got to eat maybe 2 little tomatoes in total and guess what, same for me...

For some reason I didn’t give up and my experiments kept going on. I never thought of doing some research first – I just planted anything anywhere and anyhow... I could have saved a lot of time and money if I took the time to at least read the labels that come with the plants! But somehow after a few years, I had house plants growing nicely and also a nice little vegetable garden!



So, for all of you that think that you don’t have a “green thumb”, my advice is:

Start with one or two plants at a time and take the time to research a little to make sure the plant you want will do well in the place you want to keep it (enough sun or shade? Right soil? Right temperatures? How much will you have to water it?) Just some basic information in advance will give you a much better chance to succeed. And most importantly, don’t give up!!

And always feel free to just come by and chat with me. I’m no expert, but I’d love to help you succeed in keeping some or many plants. They are so beneficial to us in many ways!

PS – And just to finish my “foreigner” dilemma, I wanted to share this as well:

With everybody considering me a foreigner, I never quite understood where I belong. Until one day a former co-worker filling out an ethnicity form wrote “Human” under the “Race” question. Genius! We are indeed all humans no matter our skin color or where we come from!!