

# Life Lessons from Gardens

Linda Buckmaster

I.

To absolutely everything, there is a season—its own brief bud, then the flowering before the seed of legacy.

II.

Roots go deep, deeper than you think when you first begin to dig.

III.

Sometimes you have to re-plant. The sooner you realize this, the better. No sense agonizing over what has been.

IV.

Know well your gardening zone, that tiny pocket of earth that is yours within a larger regional one. Take a lifetime to learn its fullnesses and limits. Respect differences. Don't try to force a Zone 6 plant into Zone 5, or a shade one into the full sun.

V.

There will always be a time to weep and a time to laugh.

VI.

Recognize that plants have lives of their own. Just because something is beautiful one year doesn't mean it will be the next. Let go of outcome. Embrace change.

VII.

Although you may envy your neighbor's successes, know that they have their own disappointments, too. Find out what works for you.

VIII.

Know the difference between compassion, mercy, and justice when dealing with Asiatic lily beetles and slugs.

IX.

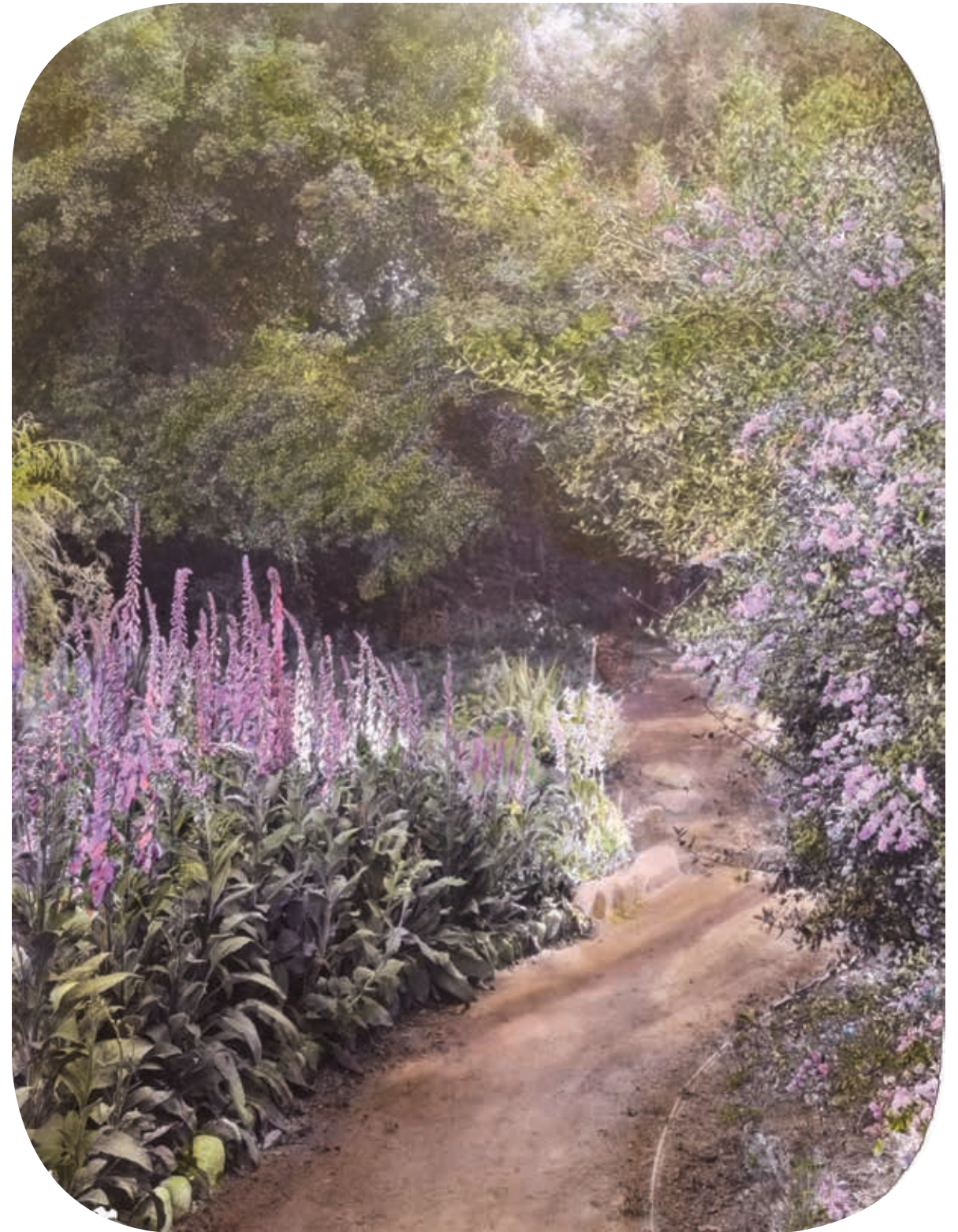
Remember who gave you which cuttings. Remember the gardener and the garden. Tell the stories. Share with friends.

X.

Divide and multiply. Cut away new shoots and start them in fresh ground. Greedy crowding produces little flower and crooked carrots.

XI.

Weed. Pay attention daily. Water when dry.



Frances Benjamin Johnston, Michael Cochrane Armour House, Pasadena, California, 1917