



BLOOMS & DREAMS

GILLINGHAM



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BLOOMS & DREAMS

CULTIVATING WELLNESS,
GENEROSITY &
A CONNECTION TO THE LAND

MISHA GILLINGHAM

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Starting Our Farm



GARDEN SHED & HARVEST STATION

I revived our junky, dusty storage shed from its sad state of Rip Van Winkle slumber into a nice cool sanctuary to relax in on a warm summer day. When the garden gets too hot and my back and hands have had enough, the shade of the She Shed beckons me inside to read a book or write in my journal. This is also a space I use to arrange and store flowers, as well as fresh food harvests, since it is guarded from the sun.

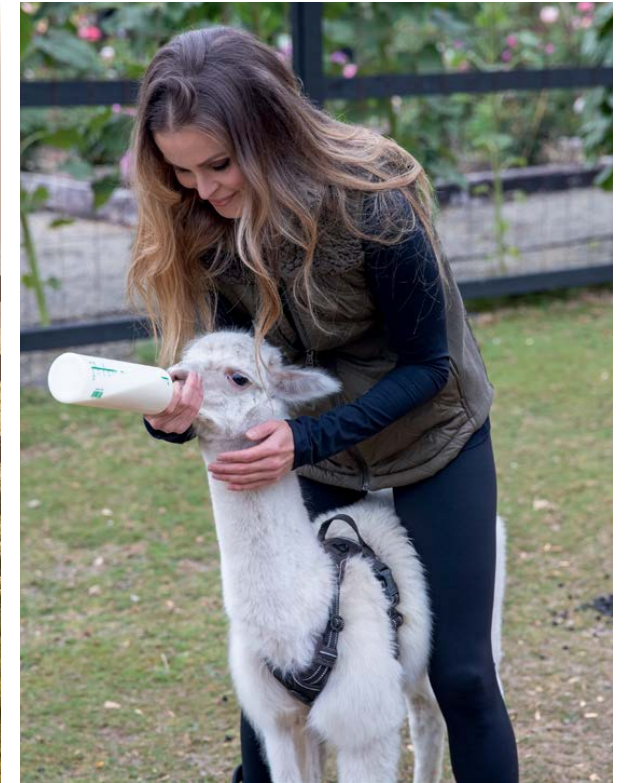


The harvest station is attached to the side of the garden shed, and it's a bit makeshift since we threw it together in the area where the old goat barn used to be. It's covered by the shed's roof overhang, so I decided to add shelves and store some of my frequently used supplies here. It's where I keep my aprons, harvest buckets, tools, and more. My husband built our washing and harvesting tables using leftover cedar from our raised beds, as well as leftover chicken wire from the coop.



ALPACAS

You might think our German shepherds would be the protectors of the livestock, but in fact, it is our “sweet” alpacas who wear that hat. I use the term “sweet” lightly because if you catch Sasha on a bad day she’ll spit the entire contents of her stomach at you. But otherwise, they’re quite beautiful creatures that are interesting to watch, and they take their job seriously. So far, no coyote or cougar has dared to come anywhere near our fur babies. We adopted Antonio, our male alpaca, with our two dwarf goats when their previous owner moved away. We were told poor Antonio had a skin infection when he was young and his face and legs are badly scarred. But he doesn’t seem to let that hold him back. He is a fierce protector and the most social of our alpacas. Just recently, Willow and Antonio created Paco—the newest addition to our alpaca herd.





FOUNTAIN & FIREPITS

I was unable to find a preconstructed fountain with the rustic look I was going for in the garden. Many of them were too ornate and fancy, so we decided to put together our own, using the end of an old propane tank, sandblasted and rusted, as the bowl. Then we used a rustic old stone and an antique water pump as the faucet. The water trickles from the pump into the bowl, then over the edges into the lower pool, which is made of stones and grout. We love the way it turned out.

We wanted our garden to be a casual, comfortable place for guests to converse and relax, and there's just something about sitting around a fire that feels so natural. We built two firepits in the center of the garden because we like to be able to seat our extended family who come to visit, as well as any friends we entertain. The Adirondack chairs provide an inviting and laid-back atmosphere to be enjoyed by adults and kids alike. This is the prime evening spot for roasting marshmallows, enjoying a cup of tea, and taking it all in.

WHY WE DONATE

Evergreen Acres overflows with abundance, and we feel called to share this bounty and the joy that comes along with it.

Giving flowers is like gifting a tangible piece of delight. Flowers are truly presents from nature that have long-term positive effects on our moods and well-being. Whether it's a small bouquet of Peppermint Stick zinnias or a complex towering arrangement of Blue Wow tulips, flowers have the unique ability to make us stop and appreciate nature's artistry. They create intimate connections between the giver and the receiver. We love to spread this cheer and all of the positive benefits that come with it.

We also donate homegrown fruits and veggies to encourage good health for everyone. I believe that fresh vegetables should be included in all of our meals and personally make them my main ingredient. Growing up, my family did not have the budget for loads of fresh, organic produce, and, in my opinion, nutritious fresh vegetables and quality ingredients should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their income. I'd like to help make this a reality in our community. My wish is to see more growers in all communities sharing the gifts of beautiful blooms and homegrown garden goodness.

