

Are you in the right place?

We planted a pineapple plant several years ago & eagerly anticipated fresh pineapple. It was planted in a semi shady area on our patio and was watered, trimmed & grew well. However after a several years, it did not produce any pineapple. It wasn't dead, but it wasn't producing either. Several horticulturists said it should've produced fruit by now and suggested moving it to a spot that received direct sun all day. Good advice, but we didn't heed it right away and the plant maintained the status quo.

One day while watering it, the ideal spot came to mind, a natural area that bordered a nature preserve. The area has a variety of trees, some undergrowth, and of course open sandy areas. Everything grows just fine all by itself in that area. I picked a spot that received lots of sun, dug up the plant & moved it. I wasn't sure how the plant would react to the change. There aren't sprinklers in that area & there's not a fence to shield it from the wind or animals. The other trees and shrubs in the area grow very well, so I figured the plant had a good shot.

Just a few months later it produced a small pineapple. A few more months and I enjoyed a delicious, homegrown pineapple. After all those years, all the plant needed to fulfill its purpose was to be in the proper location. It's producing more pineapples as this is written.

Doesn't life sometimes feel like that? You're doing okay, but things aren't progressing like you'd like. Feels like you no mater you try, nothing's working. You can see what you want to do or be, but getting there just doesn't seem to be happening.

Consider the story of the pineapple plant above; maybe you just need to change "locations". The location could be as simple as a change of attitude or perspective. I find that making a list of what is working rather than what is broken is a good start. Once you see that there is success, even if it's small, you can begin to build upon that.

Location could also be a physical change; career, employer, friends, daily routine, etc. These types of changes aren't always easy and sometimes they can be stressful. I can only imagine what the pineapple plant thought when I dug it up. It probably had visions of being tossed into a mulch pile or a dumpster. I'm sure it breathed a sigh of relief once I planted in a nice area surrounded by other vegetation.

For the pineapple plant the change was drastic, a literal uprooting. However, before I made that major of a decision, I consulted with experts for the proper location and how to successfully move it. If we plan like that for a plant, then we should definitely do the same for any drastic life changes.

In the end, the change was a success. The plant is fulfilling its potential and continues to produce delicious fruit. So next time things aren't happening as you'd like, consider the story of the pineapple plant; maybe you just need to be in the right location.

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