



a natural state

Artist: Leslie Pierce

Video 5: Mrs. Braswell

Braswell: It's like planting a watermelon crop. In fact, when I first planted my gourds, I went to the Extension office and got a pamphlet on watermelons, and I followed that growing pattern. You plant them in April here and you harvest in the fall, like in October/November. The gourds are dried out, and December we have them in here. So you're looking at last year's crop here.

Back in history, they were used to carry water in, small gourds for bowls...way before you were probably born. Even when I grew up, we had a gourd dipper, and that was the only one we had.

Well, my childhood was in the Depression, when everything was done with these tools like you see hanging on the wall. With mules and a plow that you walked behind and...that was Depression days. Now you do with tractors. We did not have material things. We did not have money. And you had to depend on one another. If somebody got sick, your neighbor came in and sat with you and helped you, and you did the same for them. Today, you call 9-1-1 and go to the hospital, right?

Natural is something that is grown by nature or made by nature. It's not man-made. Farming, you're dealing with nature. You're working with soil. You're working with...I mean, when you're working with soil, you're working with plants, that's the closest to nature you're ever going to be, to me. And that's all I know. I grew up doing that and that's...I've done it all my life.

End.