

Life in the Country

American Picker

A former travel writer puts down roots—and a whole lot of flowers—on a 10-acre farm nestled on Washington’s Bainbridge Island.



Misha Gillingham stands in the bed of her 1950 Chevy 3100 Classic pickup, filled with the flowers she plants each April, including dahlias, zinnias, and gladiolus.

Coming this August, Misha's new coffee table book, *Blooms and Dreams*, delivers gardening eye candy, including all of her favorite flowers, like these ombre-hued Miami Sunset tulips.



It's springtime on Washington's Bainbridge Island, and Misha Gillingham is up with the sun to tend the flower-filled acres of her home, Evergreen Acres Farm. "April is one of my favorite months because color is everywhere," says Misha, beloved by bloom enthusiasts for her petal-powered Instagram feed (@farmluxe) and the farm tours and how-to tips shared on her show, *Farm to Cable* (farmluxe.tv). She's especially passionate about creating content geared toward beginners because, "just a few years ago, I knew zero about gardening myself."

Until 2018, Misha and her family lived in L.A., where she was a travel blogger frequently away on assignment. But a cancer diagnosis led her and husband Tom to re-evaluate their fast-paced lifestyle, and they decided to move to Washington, where Tom's work was based. "We wanted a place to be together with our daughters, Leila (now 18) and Lili (now 16), and embrace a more peaceful life focused on wellness," says Misha. "We saw the listing for the farm and it felt like the answer."

Misha dug into her new surroundings quite literally, beginning with a small practice garden in the property's existing beds. As her skills grew, so did Evergreen Acres, which now includes a chicken coop, greenhouse, and abundant flower and vegetable beds—the bounty of which is donated to the local food bank. "Our family travels much less these days," says Misha. "Now we have adventures in our own backyard."

Surrounded by hydrangea and salvia, the chicken coop (right) was designed by local coop builder Rob Campbell and is home to eight hens. Nearby flower fields (below) house rows of daffodils, tulips, and ranunculus.



Pet lamb Hokulea wanders among the anemones. She is one of about 35 animals—including goats, alpacas, chickens, and three dogs—who call the farm home.

