Garden Gnomes

Today on Gardening in a Minute: garden gnomes.

Everyone’s seen them. Lurking in the bushes, hiding under a toadstool, or smoking a pipe in the front yard, garden gnomes are popular accessories to the modern garden.

Gnomes are small creatures from folklore that are said to live underground and guard treasures. They are typically depicted as bearded mischievous males wearing pointy red hats.

The first garden gnomes were made in Germany, in the mid-1800s. An artisan created them from terracotta, based on local myths that told of gnomes’ helping people in their gardens at night. Gnomes quickly spread across Germany and into other countries.

These days, garden gnomes are known for their penchant for travel, and can be found not just in gardens, but also in front of many of the world’s famous landmarks -- at least in photographs.

For more about garden art and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.