



Image from Garden Gate Magazine

Richard Dinges, Jr.

Planting a Garden

Ground sprouts unwanted
green crawled by death's
head beetles, a burnt
orange offering to sun's
unrelenting blaze
and wind's disquiet
that dries soil into
a brittle gray crust.

A layer of dust coats
my tongue speechless
left only to unclench
stiff joints, pull on

my boots, grab a hoe
and begin again to grow
my next great hope.

Richard Dinges, Jr. has published work in *Writer's Block*,
Avalon, *Oracle*, *Rockford Review*, and elsewhere.