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A GARDENER'S HEX ON A GREEN-THUMBED RIVAL

May your shovel break, may your fertilizer bake,
May your droughts be long and dusty.
May moles make holes, may blights take tolls,
May your pruning tools get rusty.
A killing frost on the hybrids you crossed,
May your pink chrysanthemums sicken.
A pox on your phlox, may your seeds fall on rocks,
May your aphids and mealy-bugs thicken.
To add to your woes, may you slice up your hose
When you run your power mower.
One last incantation: While you're on vacation
May stinkweeds grow up to your door.
Next Garden Show they'll surely know
You shouldn't get first prize--
My brow with sweat is twice as wet,
And twice as green are my eyes!

--Glenna Holloway
Meadowbrook Press, 1999