

Edibles in the Landscape

Hobbs 9/99

"Somewhere between grandma's era and the present we have developed and 'edible complex'. This is the resistance of including edibles in the landscape." Roz Creasy The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping

Design techniques

- Consider the landscape as a picture you are painting once established don't want to replant or dig and move —always consider the total effect
- No rigid rules—personal style and taste—

Basic Design Principles —

- Line -pattern- proportion - scale - balance- accent (focal point)- repetition
- Needs Assessment/Priority lists- what is important to you:
Food production, drainage concerns, privacy, energy conservation, attracting wildlife, comfortable place to be
- Site Analysis - Climate, soil and plant nutrition, available space, activities on site
- Special challenges-shade —Examples: (native plants, evergreen huckleberry, lingonberry, salal, thimbleberry) erosion—(ground cover-kinnikinnick, cotoneaster)
- Accessibility- flow patterns
- Utility and Service areas: Composting, clothes drying, storage shed- locate for efficiency
- Adaptability - practicality - privacy - safety
- Expanding usable space: espalier, containers
Parts of landscape: entry, side yards, patios, backyds,
- Maintenance, budget
Plot Plan with phases can be up to 5 years or more

The Plants

- Mix of edible and non-edible ornamentals
- A landscape to fill the senses.
Fragrance- from herbs, flowers, seeds, eaves
Flowers- bloom through the season, attracting birds, butterflies and insects-IPM
Foliage- texture and color
Fruits that bloom and bear fruit
- Taste Test- friends, farmers market, home orchard society
Oregon's Home Orchard Society PO Box 230192 Tigard, Or. 97281-0192
- Right Plant Right Place: soil, climate, size (maturity and growth habit)
Group plants with similar cultural needs
- Varieties-selection-compact (patio containers or small garden) dwarf, semi-dwarf, standard

Disease and Insect Resistance

- Root stock- for growing your own trees w/ selective varieties - look for cold hardiness, dwarfing ability, and soil adaptability.

Examples:

Apples: Mini-dwarf: P22 produces 6' tree -must be stacked- hardy to -40- good for containers or mall areas, remove fruit for first couple of years to get to desired size, once they start fruiting they grow more slowly.

Dwarf: M-26 grows a tree to 8'-14' space 8'-12' apart. Begins bearing on 2-3 yrs. good in most soils. Hardy to -40

Semi-dwarf: M7 tee 12'-16' w/ same spacing. Good for heavy soils. hardy to -35

Cherry: GM61: dwarf from Belgium- tree less than 15' hardy to -25-most solid ok

Pear: OHxF513: European and Asian rootstock for tree of 12'-15'. -25, good in most soils

Plum, peach, apricot: St. Julian A: semi-dwarf- 10'-15'- vigorous and productive. hardy to -35

- **Pollination:** self fertile or need another variety as pollinator
Needs pollinator: Apples, Pears, cherries, except Stella and Lapins, persimmon, blueberries, grapes
Self-fertile: Peach, plums, figs, mulberries, medlar, paw paw, currents, jostaberry, English walnut
- **Food Goals:**
Legumes, roots, nuts=protein
Leafy greens and fruits= vitamins and minerals
- **Irrigation:** know where pipes and valves are.
Group plants with similar cultural needs
Example: blueberries and strawberries are shallow rooted, acid loving, and need water frequently and deeply

Ideas for combining plants for beauty and as companions

Cultural requirements, sun/shade, root competition

At the nursery drag plants together to get an idea of the effect

Function—Form—Texture

Herbs

Parsley as bed borders
Tulips, leeks, parsley, silver thyme
Dark opal basil mixed with molten fire amaranth
Lovage as backdrop
Dill with creeping thyme or marjoram
Variegate marjoram with parsley—other ideas from group

Annuals

Mixing Japanese eggplants with gray leaved, sage, or silver colored foliage (artemesia)
New Zealand spinach and nasturtiums (containers)
Purple eggplant with cosmos behind and ageratum in front
Border of pansies w/ parsley w/ drifts of lettuce
Zinnia mixed with squash (pl. 2 weeks before sq.)
Carrot lacy growth as backdrop to small delicate flowers: alyssum,

Perennials

Strawberry w/ phlox
Rhubarb—great leaf structure—poisonous—but great filler
Water chestnuts. plant in spring and harvest in fall—keep in several inches of water
Daylillies good back drop for veggies
Daylillies blossoms are succulent raw or stir fry- (remove inner fl. parts. —tubers are edible but not very tasty)
Blueberries: color through the year—combine w/ bleeding hearts strawberries

Edible flowers

Calendula, english daisy, nasturtiums, chives, Borage flowers in ice cubes or on salads

Vines to include

For arbors- kiwi, grapes. akebia, passion flower

Nut trees: to include (but together)

walnut, chestnut, filberts

Winter color: Choose structure for winter beauty

Ever-green huckleberry, Salal, Blueberries, Sword fern

Bird Attracting Natives

Amelanchier grandifolia: Serviceberry 'Regent'-spring color-pink buds open to white flowers-red fruit in July 15-20' tall—fall color orange-red— Autumn Olive 'Multiflora'(underground stems) 6'-20', Goumi, Chokecherry, Oemleria cerasiformis- Indian Plum white fl. in March blue/black fruit