

# Living Clean & Green!

## Incredible Edible Landscapes: Have your Garden and Eat it Too!

### What is Edible Landscaping?

Edible landscaping is the use of food-producing plants in the landscape. Many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants with edible parts can serve the same function as ornamentals, and look just as good. Edibles can be incorporated into any garden style, and adding just a few edibles offers many rewards.

### Why edible landscaping?

In addition to the aesthetic and enjoyable aspects of growing a garden in your backyard, edible landscaping is also good for the Earth, too! When you grow your own food, you control the type and quantity of pesticides and herbicides used. You can drastically decrease the amount of chemicals your family eats by decreasing the use of commercial gardening products. Reduced chemical use also means fewer chemicals in our local air and water.

Most gardeners will also tell you that home-grown food tastes better because it's fresher. And fresh food typically contains more vitamins and minerals than food that travels for days before landing in your grocery store.

Finally, you can save money. Gardener and author, Rosemary Creesy, estimates that she saved over \$700 a year by converting 100 square feet of her yard into an edible garden!



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### How to landscape with edibles

To get started, try a one-to-one substitution:

- Where you want a shade tree, plant a fruit tree instead. Pears, plums, apples and persimmons are all great choices.
- Substitute deciduous shrubs with gooseberries, currants, raspberries, mulberries, or hazelnuts.
- In the flower bed, plant edible flowers like pansies, nasturtiums or bachelor's buttons. Daylilies, hibiscus, borage, and calendula are just a few of the many pretty flowers that are edible.
- Include a few vegetables and herbs among your annual or perennial flowers. Try decorative hot peppers, Thai basil, chives, fennel and other herbs. Rhubarb, with its bold red stalks and crinkly green leaves, is a show-stopper, as is rainbow chard. Russian red or silver kale adds bursts of color. Alpine strawberries, leaf lettuces or parsley make a fine edging for a flower bed.
- Shave away a few inches of turf to make space for clumps of herbs. Replace larger patches of lawn with edible groundcover such as strawberries, bunchberry, thyme or oregano.
- Grow climbing plants like hardy kiwis, hardy passion-flower vines, climbing nasturtiums, scarlet runner beans, or sugar snap peas.



#### Scents & Sights

- Rosemary
- Lavender
- Squash
- Hyacinth
- Beans
- Tomatillos
- Anaheim peppers
- Chocolate mint



#### Shade lovers:

- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Mushrooms



#### Sun lovers:

- Blueberries
- Passionflower
- Raspberries



#### Herbs:

- Basil
- Oregano
- Sage
- Rosemary

