



Community Ecology Institute

Edible Landscapes



The Community Ecology Institute
Nourishing Gardens Program

Consider Your Current Landscape

- Do you have empty spaces that could be filled by edible plants?
- Are there lackluster plants that could be replaced:
 - Trees/ bushes that don't fit the space.
 - Non-natives you would like to replace.
 - Plants that are offering little to no ornamental value.

Planning:

- Consider options that fit the space and environment.
- Plan for different heights, including vines that can climb up a fixture and low growing groundcovers.
- Consider adding plants that offer nutritional value for you and wildlife, as well as ornamental value.

Put Your Plan to Paper

Make Note Of:

- Any plants you may want to remove.
- Areas that feel incomplete.
- Areas that would benefit from annuals while perennials are filling in.
- AND note space, sun, and soil type.
- Plants that meet those needs and what their benefits are.

If you are planting next to your home, you will want to consider:

- Ultimate size of the plants/ distance from your house.
- Avoid planting under downspouts.
- Avoid planting under the overhang of your house.
- Choose plants that won't mind the sandy soil builders use (prickly pear)

Plants to Consider

Native Fruit Trees:

- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- American Plum (*Prunus Americana*)
- Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra L.*)
- Sweet Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

Note: *Prunus* (cherry) is one of the most beneficial keystone species, hosting 456 Lepidoptera.

Fruit and nut trees that might need a bit more care include peaches, pears, apples, citrus, fig, pecans.

General Guidance for Choosing Trees:

- Purchase locally when possible.
- Research your trees/shrubs and ensure you are matching the right plant to the right space.
- Determine potential need for cross pollination and whether more than one plant will be needed.
- Consider dwarf varieties if you have a smaller space to fill.
- Consider disease resistant varieties or make a plan for how you will address common issues.



<p style="text-align: center;">Plants to Consider</p> <p><u>Cane and Vining Fruits:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raspberry• Blackberry• Grapes <p><u>Native Fruit Bushes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa americana</i>) *jellies and wines• American Elderberry (<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>) *Cook!• Blueberries (<i>Vaccinium sp.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Huckleberry (<i>Gaylussacia Baccata</i>)• Red or Black Chokeberry (<i>Aronia Arbutifolia/melanocarpa</i>) *bake! <p><u>Fruits:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strawberries (<i>Fragaria Spp. Virginiana</i>)• Low-bush Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>)• Mints such as Spearmint (<i>Mentha spicata</i>)• Herbs such as Creeping Thyme (<i>Thymus praecox</i>)• American Wintergreen (<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>)• Garden Nasturtium (<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>)• Yellow Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis</i>)
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<p style="text-align: center;">Plants to Consider</p> <p><u>Edible Flowers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>)• Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea Purpurea</i>)• Maypop Passion Vine (<i>Passiflora Incarnata</i>)• Bee Balm (<i>Monarda Didyma</i>)• Nasturtium (<i>Tropaeolum</i>)• Sumac (<i>Rhus Spp.</i>)• Violets (<i>Violaceae</i>)• Virginia Spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia Virginiana</i>) <p>Roses are in the same family as apples and crabapples and produce edible rose hips.</p>	<p><u>Flowers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peas or Scarlet Runner Beans growing up your sunflowers, deck, or trellis.• Red, yellow, or orange peppers.• Rhubarb or Swiss Chard• Asparagus• Artichokes <p>Plants such as squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, eggplant, okra, and watermelons depend on pollination to set fruit.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Invasives: if you can't beat them eat them!</p> <p>Some edible non-native invasives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autumn Olive (<i>Elaeagnus Umbellata</i>)• Chickweed (<i>Stellaria Media</i>)• Dandelions (<i>Taraxacum Officinale</i>)• Field Garlic (<i>Allium Vineale</i>)• Garlic Mustard (<i>Alliaria Petiolata</i>)• Hairy Bittercress (<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>)• Japanese knotweed (<i>Reynoutria Japonica</i>)• Mugwort (<i>Artemisia Vulgaris</i>)	<p style="text-align: center;">Safety Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not assume that all parts of a plant are safe to eat. Do your research!• Consult a reliable reference to ensure right plant, right method.• Start small! Some people may have sensitivity or reactions to plants that are safe to eat.• Edible does not always equal delicious, and some varieties may be better than others.• Re-consider downspouts, lawn fertilizers, and pesticide use!
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