

## How To Sneak Edibles Into Your Landscape

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### What is Edible Landscaping?

Includes annual and perennial edible plants and encompasses vegetable gardens, trees, shrubs and other plantings that produce food for people.

Benefits: shelter, habitat for wildlife, food, medicine, beauty, health – physical and mental, economical, makes wasted land productive.

### Basics of veggie needs

Full Sun – most vegetables, flowers and herbs need 6-8 hrs of sun

Fertile well-drained soil or quality potting soil

Out of the wind

Easy to access for harvesting

Water source close by

Perennial, biennial, annual      80:20 balance

### The Organic Checklist

Build healthy soil

Work with nature

Right plant, right place

Encourage biodiversity

Use the least toxic approach

Conserve resources

Water wisely

Learn as you grow

### Keys to success

- Don't Panic
- Start small and get some success right away
- Start a garden journal
- Keep veggies close and visit frequently
- Water at regular intervals
- Proper spacing. Few plants with more space = bigger yield
- Right plant, right place, right time
- Succession planting

### Varieties for Small Spaces

Plants that thrive in the Pacific Northwest.

Heavy producers.

Can be harvested over a long period of time.

Compact, bush or determinate varieties.

Climbing plants.

Short season and self-sowing annuals. <80 days

Look for varieties that are disease and pest resistant.

### **Not so sneaky**

Raised beds, containers on deck or patio. Unabashed food growing.

### **Sneaky**

Replace with edible plant.

ABPE Always be planting edibles.

Nursery pots among the perennials.

Container gardens alongside garden beds.

As part of structures on arbors and pergolas.

Grow vines up existing trees; honey suckle, jasmine, kiwi males.

Fill vertical spaces with climbing plants.

Compact, space saver or patio varieties.

### **Container Quickie**

**Potting Soil** is specially formulated to promote drainage while holding water. Fill the container with potting soil (do not add rocks at the bottom, this creates a perched water table and wrecks the drainage). Fill to about 2-4 inches from top rim of container.

### **Good Commercial Brands of Potting Soil for Edibles – OMRI listed**

Cedar Grove Potting Soil

Black Gold Organic Potting Soil

Gardener and Bloome Organic Potting Soil

### **Eat what you grow**

Harvesting takes time and some planning. Freeze, can, ferment and dehydrate produce for future feasts. Share the surplus.

### **Learn as much as you can**

Keep a journal to record your activities and observations.

Take classes, join clubs and plant groups.

### **Resources**

The Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 <http://gardenhotline.org/question/>

### **Books**

*Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Lisa Taylor, 2014.

*Your Farm in the City*, Lisa Taylor, 2011.

*Edible Landscaping*, Rosalind Creasy, 2010

*Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape--Naturally*, Robert Kourik, 2005

*Living With Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, Russell Link, 2004