

**Gardening within the Lines:
Edible Gardening Honoring Subdivision Deed Restrictions
Presented by Jane Gray, Fort Bend Master Gardener
January, 2012**

- I. What is Edible Landscaping?
 - Offers an alternative to conventional residential landscapes that are designed solely for ornamental purposes
 - Combines edible plants and more traditional ornamental plants
 - Should be attractive, but produce fruits, vegetables, and herbs for home use

- II. Why Landscape with Edibles?
 - To enjoy the freshness and flavor of home-grown produce
 - To control the quantity and kind of pesticides and herbicides used on the foods you consume
 - To increase the food security of your household
 - To grow unusual varieties
 - To reduce the grass lawn footprint
 - To get outside, interact with the natural world, and have fun

- III. Things to Consider:
 - Be familiar with your Home Owners Association rules and regulations
 - Examples from some Ft. Bend county HOAs:
 - “All landscaping is required to be maintained in a healthy and attractive appearance.”
 - “The use of artificial plants and flowers is not permitted.”
 - “A plant list is provided.”
 - “No fruit trees are permitted in the front or side yards unless planted by the builder.”
 - “No vegetable gardens shall be permitted except in fully screened areas in the backyard only so as not to be visible from the street or objectionable to an adjacent property.”
 - Follow good landscape design in line and form
 - Tap into your garden style

- IV. Edible Landscaping
 - Most (but not all) fruits, vegetables and herbs require at least 6 hours of sunlight per day
 - Almost all plants also require well-drained soil

- V. Easy to Get Started:
 - One to one substitution –
 - Where you have an ornamental tree, replace with a fruit tree (citrus, apple, pear, fig, bay laurel).
 - Where you have an annual, replace with a vegetable or herb.

- VI. Front Yard Edible “Requirements”
 - The entire plant must have a pleasing form
 - Leaves must hold up for the entire growing season
 - If you plant edibles that aren’t so pretty, hide them with hardscapes and border plants

VII. Fruit Tree List

- Citrus
- Apple
- Pear
- Fig
- Bay laurel

VIII. Fruit trees can be espaliered against a wall or along the side of your house.

IX. Small fruit trees can be grown in decorative pots.

X. Evergreen Edibles:

- Rosemary
- Artichoke
- Chives
- Oregano
- Chives
- Thyme

XI. Vegetables and Herbs for the Spring and Summer:

- Nasturtium (research other edible flowers)
- Asparagus
- Climbing (Malabar) spinach
- Beans
- Peppers
- Basil
- Eggplants
- Sage
- Amaranth
- Sweet Potato
- Dill
- Fennel
- Salad burnet

XII. Vegetables for the Winter:

- Lettuce
- Arugula
- Carrots
- Chard
- Cutting celery
- Kale
- Radish
- Parsley
- Peas

XIII. Vegetables to Relegate to the Back Yard

- Most tomatoes
- Squash and cucumbers
- Corn
- Okra
- Bananas

XIV. References

- Aggie Horticulture – Texas AgriLIFE Extension
- “The Edible Front Yard” by Ivette Soler
- Ohio State University Extension Factsheet: Edible Landscaping
- “The Beautiful Food Garden” by Kate Rogers Gessert
- “Edible Estates” by Fritz Haeg