

Landscaping You Can Eat

A NEW TREND: BRINGING YOUR GARDEN TO THE FRONT DOOR

Gardening and landscaping have historically been two very different disciplines. Gardening involves growing things for the dinner table, and landscaping is strictly ornamental.



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Edible landscaping combines gardening with landscape design, creating a tasty and beautiful style.

You can combine the two, though, in a new home improvement trend called edible landscaping.

With an edible landscape, your goal is to create a space that is just as welcoming and visually pleasing as a traditional landscape, only with the added benefit of vegetables, fruits and herbs that you can use to cook a meal.

LIMITED SPACE

A big reason edible landscaping has become popular is that it takes up much less space than a traditional garden.

If you have a little space between the shrubs by your front door, you could plant some herbs during the growing season. It doesn't take up much room, and there's no rule that says gardeners have to separate their landscaping from their edibles. Just be careful what you harvest, because many landscaping plants are not edible.

CONVENIENCE

While a traditional vegetable garden is usually planted away from the house, edible landscaping can be planted right outside your door. That makes it

easy to step outside and pick some rosemary or pull a piece of fruit from a tree, making it easier to put your garden to use.

It's also popular to use containers as part of an edible landscape. There are many varieties of dwarf citrus trees, for example, that are perfect for container gardening. You can bring them indoors in the winter and let them be visible as part of your landscaping in the spring and summer.

BEAUTY

Finally, edible landscaping can be just as beautiful as traditional, non-edible landscaping.

You have plenty of choices for edible plants that are also suitable for the landscape — including varieties of persimmons, pecans, citrus trees and peach trees — that are as tasty as they are good looking.

When you choose edible plants for your landscaping, you're freeing up more space in your vegetable garden for other plants. You're also putting your gardening skills on full display, letting visitors get an up-close look at the bounty you're growing rather than hiding it in a faraway backyard garden.