



Ornamental Edible Landscaping

Edible landscapes can vary widely in their size, lay-out, sun exposure, and soil conditions. Many of these Missouri native and non-native edible species can be integrated into the landscape. These are commonly considered "edibles" that have ornamental factors. Consider your own health factors; consult a doctor or dietitian for food recommendations. Be personally responsible. If these are new foods for you be aware there are always health risks and this list does not offer anything more than plant selections that have been described as attractive with know edible attributes.

The following plant suggestions could be used to design an edible landscape that maximizes the space on a lot size of 4000 square feet (372 square meters) with a combined house and garage footprint of 2000 square feet (186 square meters). The following plantings represent a variety of heights and sun needs and include trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials which typically perform well in Missouri:

- (1) One standard size apple tree (*Malus*) with disease resistance. *Malus*. Gold Rush, M. Enterprise and M. Jonafree, all are attractive, known to be fairly disease resistant and are recommended as pollinators for each other. Standard size typically reaches 25'. Save energy by using it to shade the south side of house.
- (2) Dwarf, or semi-dwarf form Apple trees (again check for disease resistance. Choose differently than the standard size selection, but also consider pollination compatibility. M. 'Gold Rush', M. 'Enterprise' and M. 'Jonafree', all are attractive, known to be fairly disease resistant and are recommended as pollinators for each other
- (2) Pawpaw trees (*Asimina triloba*) Pawpaw is native to the Eastern United States where it grows in the understory of mixed hardwood forests, on slopes and in rarely flooded bottomlands. It requires filtered sun or shade for its first year or two, but can be allowed full sun after that. Its roots depend on a symbiotic relationship with soil bacteria, so keep the soil healthy.
- (1) Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) The American persimmon tree grows to 35 to 60 feet tall and 20 to 35 feet wide. The oriental persimmon tree is not hardy in zone 5 and is a smaller stature tree.
- (1) Patio Peach 'Bonfire' (considered possible offspring of native Indian peach. It has small fruit. The flavor is reported to vary considerably. The tree at Missouri Botanical Garden is juicy and sweet however the seed is large compared to amount of fruit. It is not known for its significant production ability but for its above average disease resistance.
- (2) Plum trees on semi-dwarf or dwarf root stock grown as an "espalier" along a fence line or a narrow space along a path. (Requires approximately 25 linear feet/7.5 meters). Most cultivars have disease and insect problems and so may have a relatively short 8-10 year life span in the lower Midwest. There are Missouri native plums, which would be worth trying. The popular Damson plum (*Prunus domestica* subsp. *insititia*) is a favorite for jellies and jam making.
- (3) of each Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) 'Duke', 'Bluecrop' and Elliot' and (3) *Aronia melanocarpa* shrubs planted along the edge of a deck or patio.
- (8 -12) Juneberry / Shadbush (*Amelanchier* planted as a tall hedge in front yard or along back lane (requires 24-36 linear feet/7.5- 11 meters).
- (1) hardy 'Concord Grape (*Vitis labrusca*) –Seedless' grape planted on the south facing garage or house wall with a trellis for support.
- (3) Hardy Mini kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*) 'Issai' (self pollinating vine-not artic type) planted on an arbor, chain link fence or trellis on the east side of the house (partially shaded).
- (1) *Sambucus canadensis* (Elderberry) If growing selected clones for the fruit, you need to plant at least two different cultivars for cross pollination.
- (1) Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) - only if you are prepared to remove seedlings)
- (3) Clove currant (*Ribes odoratum*) 1 male 2 female, planted in a partially shaded, moist location on the NE or NW side of the property in a mulched bed.
- 200-400 square feet (18.5 – 37 square meters) of perennial beds with a mix of edible and ornamental flowers and edible perennials see starter list for options for the lower Midwest.
- 200-400 square feet (18.5 – 37 square meters) of for annual "no-till" vegetable gardening space designed in permanent curved beds, 3-4 feet (1 meter) wide with good sun exposure and good access from the kitchen. Include room for vertical use with lattice type fence for climbing bean, tying up tomatoes and also training cucumbers. See Starter list for suggestions!
- 36 square feet/3.5 square meters) for a raised "herb spiral" garden with culinary, tea, and medicinal herbs, lined with stone with good access from the kitchen and good viewing from the sitting area. This must have hardscape barriers to limit the aggressive tendencies and excessive spread of many herbs. Many herbs tend to be adaptable and vigorous and will invade spaces and be difficult to remove
- Large contained area for *Rubus* 'Thornless Chester' a seedless, thornless black raspberry patch Locate these in a confined area., allowing 4-6' between each plant.

Edible Landscape Suggestions for the Lower Midwest

Malus (Apple). Gold Rush, M. Enterprise and M. Jonafree
Asimina triloba (Am. Pawpaw)
Diospyros virginiana (Persimmon)
Prunus persica 'Bonfire'
Prunus Americana (Wild plum)
Prunus domestica subsp. *insititia* (Damson plum)
Vaccinium corymbosum 'Duke', 'Bluecrop' and 'Elliot'
Aronia melanocarpa (Black chokecherry)
Amelanchier spp. (Serviceberry)
Vitis labrusca (grape) 'Seedless Concord' or other disease resistant variety
Actinidia arguta ((hardy kiwi)) 'Issai' (self pollinating)
Sambucus canadensis (American Elderberry) see note on cultivar selections!
Ribes odoratum (Clove Currant)
Rubus 'Thornless Chester'
Fragaria vesca (Woodland strawberry)

Power Vegetable Gardening (Maximum success in small spaces)

Bush beans (for planting after peas) (starts well from seed)
 Broccoli (plant early from starter plants)
 Carrots (starts well from seed)
 Cucumber (bush-type) (use starter plants or seed)
 Lettuce (starts well from seed or use starter plants for an earlier crop)
 Onions 'Walla Walla Sweet White' (start with long day variety from "sets")
 Peas 'Sugar Bon Early' (an early crop) (starts well from seed)
 Peppers (*Capsicum* spp) 'California Wonder' (plant started plants) (green peppers are easiest)
 Radish (*Raphanus sativus*) 'Burpee's White', 'Cherry Belle', 'Easter Egg' (plant seeds early)
 Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) 'Tye'e' / 'Olympia' bolt resistant (plant seeds early)
 Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) 'Gardener's Delight' / 'Better Boy'