

GPPA 2013 Flower Show Exhibit Information

Edibles in the Ornamental Garden

Combining vegetables, fruits, herbs, and ornamentals in the garden is referred to as edible landscaping, companion or combination planting, or a kitchen garden. This type of gardening is not new, but lost its appeal in America during the 1900's. Today edible landscaping is back in favor and growing in popularity.

Trends Affecting Atlanta Gardeners

- Shrinking yards OR only balcony or patio space for containers
- Busier lifestyles and longer commutes result in less gardening time
- Recurring droughts and watering restrictions
- “Grow your own” food movement expanding
- Eating healthier becoming more popular
- Flourishing community and school gardens

Utilizing edible landscaping techniques, gardeners can mix and match vegetables, fruits, herbs, and ornamentals in endless ways to please palates and stimulate senses.

Reasons for Edible Landscaping

- Full or part sun in only one planting area
- Many ornamentals provide benefits to edibles
- Little or no space for separate edible and ornamental gardens
- To date, edible gardens in Georgia have no watering restrictions

Ways to Use Edibles

- Multi-colored lettuce can edge borders
- Substitute fruit trees for specimen trees
- Use raspberry or blackberry vines to cover fences
- Add height by training squash, cucumber, or peas on a trellis
- Grape and kiwi vines work well on pergolas, walls or arbors
- Plant oregano, thyme, and strawberries as ground covers

The possibilities are endless. Atlanta's long growing season accommodates warm and cool season plantings. Smaller, more compact fruit and vegetable varieties

(perfect for containers) enter the market each year. Select your favorite veggies, herbs, and fruits; analyze your location, research varieties, and enjoy your edibles!

Below are websites with more in-depth information on edible landscaping.

UGA CAES Publication List

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/numberedPubs.cfm>

UGA CAES Publication B 1170 Herbs in Southern Gardens

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=7751&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7751&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication C 1027-10 Growing Fruits Community and School Gardens

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=8033&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=8033&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication B 1011 Growing Vegetables Organically

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=6141&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6141&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication C 993 Homegrown Summer and Winter Squash

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=7898&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7898&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication C963 Vegetable Gardening in Georgia

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=7817&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7817&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication C 787 Gardening in Containers

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?
pk_id=6385&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6385&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)

UGA CAES Publication B 577 Home Gardening

http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=5963

Roots To Fruits Edible Landscaping – A Ripe Idea...

<http://rootstofruits.biz/edible-landscaping-a-ripe-idea>

“Edibles Love Ornamentals” Horticulture Oct 19, 2012

<http://www.hortmag.com/blogs/gardening-blog/edibles-love-ornamentals-and-the-feeling-is-mutual>

“Sneaking Edibles in Among the Ornamentals” Horticulture June 5, 2012

<http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/garden-design/sneaking-edibles-in-among-the-ornamentals>

Mother Nature Network Feb 18, 2013 by Erica Glasener

<http://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/plant-varieties-that-are-both-edible-and-ornamental>

Mother Earth News “Companion Planting with Vegetables and Flowers”

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/companion-planting-zm0z11zhun.aspx?page=4#axzz2LMiaZY00>

Fine Gardening “Who says a kitchen garden can’t be beautiful”

<http://www.finegardening.com/design/articles/who-says-a-kitchen-garden-cant-be-beautiful.aspx>

OrganicGardening.com Beginner’s Guide to Companion Planting

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/companion-planting>

Cold Frame

An unheated, protected plant bed

Uses:

- Start seeds
- Protect seedlings
- Harden off plants
- Extend the growing season
- Overwinter plants

Allows control and monitoring of:

- Temperature

- Sunlight
- Moisture
- Wind exposure

Multiple types and sizes of cold frames exist and different styles work best for different uses. Refer to the websites below for more information.

OrganicGardening.com Cold Frames

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/coldframes>

FineGardening.com 4 Ways to Use a Cold Frame

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/4-ways-to-use-cold-frame.aspx>

Worm Compost

Organic waste material generated by worms

Earthworms are nature's most efficient recyclers and have been enriching soil for millions of years. Vermicomposting is the cultivation of earthworms to produce worm compost or castings. Basically, worms are kept in a container in a warm location and fed kitchen scraps. Worm compost can be used on vegetables, fruits, herbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, lawns, and even indoor plants.

Worm compost uses:

- Fertilizer
- Soil amendment
- Mulch

What is needed for vermicomposting:

- Container - covered plastic storage bin with ventilation and drainage holes
- Worms - Red wiggler (*Eisenia fetida*) or red earthworms (*Lumbricus rubellus*)
- Bedding - shredded black & white newspaper, leaves, corrugated cardboard, sawdust, etc.
- Food - most vegetable and fruit scraps, but no animal products

The websites below will guide you through all the aspects of vermicomposting.

Clemson Cooperative Extension Worm Composting

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/compost_mulch/hgic1607.html

Fine Gardening Worm Composting

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/worm-composting.aspx>

NC State University Vermicomposting

<http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/vermicomposting/household.html>

Leaf Mulch

Organic material made from leaves that have decomposed

Use as a top-dressing mulch to:

- Suppress weed growth
- Keep roots cooler
- Help soil retain moisture

Use as an organic soil amendment to:

- Improve soil structure
- Encourage beneficial organisms

How to make:

- Chopped leaves decompose faster than whole leaves
- Chop leaves with a lawnmower, vacuum leaf blower, or chipper/shredder
- Pile chopped leaves on the ground OR contain the piled leaves in an enclosure
- Ready to use when dark brown and crumbly

Leaves are a free and abundant resource for improving metro Atlanta gardens. For more information visit one of the websites below.

Gardeners.com Making Leaf Mold

<http://www.gardeners.com/Leaf-Mold/leafmoldlp,default,pg.html>

Georgia FACES Don't let nagging leaf piles drive you to a hasty shredder or chipper purchase

http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/?public=viewStory&PK_ID=4590

FineGardening.com Making Leaf Mold

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/making-leaf-mold.aspx>

UGA CAES Publication C 816 Composting and Mulching

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?>

[pk_id=6406&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6406&pg=np&ct=home%20gardening&kt=&kid=&pid=)