Creating an Edible Landscape
East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
Why create an edible landscape?

- Eat fresh food!
- Know how it’s grown
- Family time
- Connect to nature & food systems
- Build resilient communities

Backyard garden harvest  (photo: Radish Gardens)
Elements of an Edible Landscape

Soil

Water

Zones

Edible plants & backyard chickens

Site assessment & planning

Design considerations

Beneficial insects & integrated pest management

Maximizing your harvest
What makes great garden soil?

- Minerals 40%
  - Sand - large, coarse
  - Silt
  - Clay - small, flat

- Air 25%

- Water 25%

- Organic Matter 10%
  - Decomposed plants, manure
1. Plant waste can be composted or fed to livestock

2. Organic matter from plant & animal waste provides fertility & soil tilth

3. Organic matter is broken down by organisms in the soil

4. Plants take up available nutrients through their roots
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Be Smart About Water

Drip irrigation  (photo: USDA)
Be Smart About Water

Manual weeding (photo: Oregon State University)
Be Smart About Water

Water catchment system  (photo: Pat Parker)
Be Smart About Water

Rain garden (photo: EMSWCD)

Rain garden (image: City of Portland)
Elements of an Edible Landscape

Soil

Water

**Zones**

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Maximizing your harvest
Zones

1

2

3
Zones
Elements of an Edible Landscape

- Soil
- Water
- Zones

**Edible plants & backyard chickens**

- Site assessment & planning
- Design considerations
- Beneficial insects & integrated pest management
- Maximizing your harvest
Annuals (Zone 1)

Harvested the same year they are planted:

Beans -- Carrots -- Kale -- Lettuce -- Peas -- Potatoes -- Tomatillos
Herbs & Edible Flowers (Zones 1 & 2)

May be annual or perennial. May be woody or herbaceous.

**Nasturtium**  (photo: Radish Gardens)

**Rosemary and sage**  (photo: Radish Gardens)

*Basil -- Borage -- Cilantro -- Fennel -- Mint -- Oregano -- Thyme*
Perennials (Zones 2 & 3)

May be woody or herbaceous.

**Artichoke**  (photo: Radish Gardens)

**Raspberries**  (photo: Radish Gardens)

**Blueberries**  (photo: Radish Gardens)

Asparagus -- Currants -- Grapes -- Huckleberry -- Rhubarb
Fruit & Nut Trees (Zone 3)

Perennial. Trees that bear edible nuts, berries, fruit, or flowers.

Cherry -- Hazelnut -- Pear -- Persimmon -- Quince -- Walnut
Edible Pacific NW Natives

- Evergreen huckleberry (photo: University of Washington)
- Oregon grape (photo: University of Washington)
- Thimbleberry (photo: Oregon State University)
- Salmonberry (photo: University of Washington)
- Salal (photo: University of Washington)
- Blue elderberry (photo: Oregon State University)
Backyard Chickens (Zone 1 or 2)

“Waffles” and “Edie” help with pest control

“Lucille” helps compost kitchen scraps

Fresh eggs!
BREAK
Elements of an Edible Landscape

Soil
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Maximizing your harvest
SUMMER PLANNING

What will you plant for late summer and fall harvest?

Leafy Greens

Root Vegetables and Alliums

Legumes, Nightshades, Squash
Elements of an edible landscape

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Maximizing your harvest
Design Considerations

**Composition** - formal vs. informal

**Line** - pathways, planting bed shape, sight line/views
Design Considerations

**Scale** - raised vs. in-ground beds, path width

**Materials** - wood, metal, stone
Design Considerations

Mixed edible/ornamental bed  (photo: Almanac.com)

Container garden   (photo: Radish Gardens)
Design Considerations

Texture - fine, airy, layered, coarse, bold
Design Considerations

**Color** - foliage, flowers, fruit
Companion Planting

Grouping specific plants together to create a mutually beneficial ecosystem.

Broccoli, marigold, & sweet alyssum (photo: Radish Gardens)
Companion Planting

Cilantro flowers - great for small pollinators
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Attract beneficials:
- Borage
- Calendula
- Coastal daisy
- Dill
- Lavender
- Scabiosa
- Sweet alyssum
- Yarrow
Borage flowers may repel tomato hornworm, while chickens can help remove soil pests before planting.

Deter pests:
- Borage
- Chives, onions
- Geranium
- Hyssop
- Marigold
- Nepeta/cat mint
- Radish
- Thyme
Elements of an edible landscape

Soil
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Beneficial insects & integrated pest management
Maximizing your harvest
Adult lady beetles can feed on nectar
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Lady beetle larva eat aphids
(photo: University of Wisconsin)
Beneficial Insects & Wildlife

Food

Multiple seasons
Plant diversity

Water

Safe access
Keep it clean

Douglas aster provides fall forage
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Rocks give insects safer access to water
(photo: Radish Gardens)
Beneficial Insects & Wildlife

**Nesting**

*Multiple layers*

*Avoid entrapment*

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**Overwintering**

*Tolerate messiness*

*Leave the leaves!*

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*Multiple vegetation layers give options for nesting* (photo: Radish Gardens)

*Many insects overwinter in yard debris* (photo: Radish Gardens)
Pacific NW Natives for Habitat

Snowberry
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Douglas aster
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Douglas hawthorn
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Oregon iris
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Red osier dogwood
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Red flowering currant
(photo: Radish Gardens)
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Systematic approach to prevent/minimize problems using least harmful methods first.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Underplant edible crops with flowers that discourage pests or attract beneficial predators (photo: Radish Gardens)

Cultural methods prevent or reduce pests through planning
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Physical/mechanical methods use barriers and manual removal

Check your plants often for pests (photo: Radish Gardens)
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Natural predators can help control various pests
(photo: Radish Gardens)

Biological methods incorporate natural predators
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides
(photo: Royal Horticultural Society)

Chemical methods include both organic and conventional pesticides
Elements of an edible landscape

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Maximizing your harvest
Maximizing your harvest

Succession planting: planting another crop immediately following another after harvest.

Important! Consider if crop is short-, half-, or long-season.
Maximizing your harvest

**Inter-cropping:** planting crops with different growth habits in the same space.

*Important! Provide adequate water and fertility for all crops.*
Maximizing your harvest

**Fall crops:** plant in late summer for a fall harvest.

- Arugula
- Beets
- Cilantro
- Leaf lettuce
- Kohlrabi
- Mustard greens
- Radishes
- Spinach
- Turnips

*Seeds for fall planting* (photo: Radish Gardens)
Maximizing your harvest

Overwintering crops: plant frost-tolerant crops in late summer or early fall for winter or early spring harvest.

Spinach surviving through a snowy winter (photo: Seattle Urban Farm Co.)

Overwintered broccoli pushing out early spring side shoots (photo: Seattle Urban Farm Co.)

Cabbage -- Collards -- Kale -- Leeks -- Mustard greens
“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”
-- A. Hepburn
Presentation available online:

Upcoming Workshops

Discover ways to save time, money and energy on your property through our FREE workshops. From naturescoping to livestock management, our classes help you care for your land in ways that benefit people, water and wildlife.

If you need any special accommodations to fully participate in any of the programs or events listed below, please call (503) 222-7645. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours to arrange the accommodation.

Click on any workshop name below to register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event &amp; Location</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Oct 8, 9:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Creating an Edible Landscape, Livingoods, Portland</td>
<td>Event full, wait list available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Dec 8, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Naturescoping Basics, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Portland</td>
<td>34 seats left (of 45 max)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 8, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Creating an Edible Landscape, OMSI Parker room, Portland</td>
<td>22 seats left (of 40 max)</td>
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Want to refresh your memory after attending a workshop? Download a presentation from our Workshop Materials page!

These materials are supplemental. To get the most thorough and accurate information, be sure to attend a workshop!
EMSWCD Conservation Directory:

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is a unit of local government serving Northwest Oregon’s Multnomah County east of the Willamette River. We work entirely on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. All of our work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy!

Upcoming EMSWCD Board and Committee Meetings

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), serving all of Multnomah County East of the Willamette River, has scheduled Board meetings and Grants, Land Legacy and Personnel Committee meetings at the District Office (5211 N. Williams Ave, Portland, OR 97217) for the months of September through December 2018.

Visit this page to see a calendar of upcoming meetings.

September 4, 2018

Register for a free workshop

Our fall season of workshops is here! We offer free and practical how-to workshops at a variety of locations in collaboration with our community partners. Discover simple gardening practices that will help you create a beautiful landscape that conserves water, reduces pollution...
Attend other EMSWCD workshops!

Learn how to create natural landscapes that conserve water, reduce pollution, and attract beneficial wildlife!

*Pollinators*
*Native Plants*
*Beneficial Insects*
*Naturescaping*
*Rain Gardens*
*Invasive Urban Weeds*

www.emswcd.org
Tell your friends and neighbors!

www.emswcd.org/workshops