



# The EDIBLE LANDSCAPE



**MMMM...** THIS LANDSCAPE TASTES GOOD! WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO SAY THAT WHILE STANDING IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD? YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERIENCED GARDENER OR OWN ACRES OF LAND—PROLIFIC AND ATTRACTIVE FRUIT TREES, VEGETABLE PLANTS, AND HERB GARDENS CAN EASILY BE MAINTAINED IN CONTAINERS ON YOUR DECK, IN SIMPLE RAISED BEDS, OR IN SMALL GARDEN PLOTS IN A SUNNY PART OF YOUR YARD.

## TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED:

1. Most herbs, fruits, and veggies need six or more hours of sun daily.
2. Containers filled with soil and plants can be very heavy—put them on a plant stand with castors if you want to be able to move them around.
3. Use cypress, redwood, or cedar to build raised beds as they are decay-resistant. Do not use railroad ties—they are treated with toxic creosote.
4. Create your own custom soil mix using potting soil and/or quality top soil (I like Daddy Pete's), and organic amendments such as mushroom compost and composted cow and chicken manure.
5. Choose a slow-release organic granular fertilizer (I like Espoma Garden Tone).
6. If space is an issue, look for plants with the words "container," "patio," "bush," or "dwarf" in the name. These words usually indicate a plant that maintains a smaller, more compact adult size and is therefore more suitable for a container or raised bed.

## GREAT PLANTS TO TRY:

1. 'Tophat' Blueberry—a dwarf self-pollinating blueberry that only gets about two feet tall and produces copious amounts of sweet fruit. An added bonus is its high levels of antioxidants!
2. 'Scarlet Sentinel' & 'North Pole' columnar apples—they only get 8-12 feet tall with almost no vertical branching, so they are perfect for containers and small gardens. Large, delicious fruits are produced often the first year after planting.

3. Mini 'Windowbox' Basil—these adorable 6-8 inch plants are bursting with flavor and fragrance. I can taste the pesto already.

4. 'Bush Slicer' Container Cucumber—these compact disease-resistant plants produce sweet, crisp fruits in record time. They're perfect for your summer salads.

5. 'Little Prince' Container Eggplant—described as an "edible landscaping dynamo," this attractive dwarf plant produces a plethora of 3-4 inch fruits.

6. 'Garden Babies' Container Lettuce—this butter lettuce is slow bolting and heat tolerant. It produces compact six-inch heads that are wonderful drizzled with blue cheese dressing!

7. 'Pizza my Heart' Container Pepper—this compact pepper will produce bountiful early harvests of heavy cone-shaped 3-4 inch fruits. Love the name!

8. 'Super Bush' Container Tomato—this three-foot, space-saving hybrid produces high yields of rich, juicy, flavorful fruits. They're perfect for a tomato sandwich.

9. 'Pot of Gold' Container Chard—delicious and ornamental, this small chard has crunchy, golden stems with contrasting green leaves. You can eat it or just admire it.

10. 'Bonanza' Patio Peach—this dwarf tree only reaches 4-5 feet in height and produces heavy crops of medium to large yellow fruit. I'm thinking cobbler! 🍑



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