Edible Landscapes
Design Steps

- Decide goals, needs & wants – Considerations
- Analyze Existing Site
- Plot a plan in bubbles
- Decide on budget
- Layout plan to scale
- Elements of design
  - Choose plants
Choose a Garden Theme

- Vegetable garden
- Butterfly garden
- Herb garden
- Wildlife garden
- Scent garden
- Whimsical garden
- Collection garden, e.g. roses or day lilies
- Wildflower garden
- Formal/informal
- Rock garden
- Potted garden
- Secret garden
- Edible garden – fruit
- Rain garden
- Cultural garden
- Succulent and cacti garden
1. CANOPY (LARGE FRUIT & NUT TREES)
2. LOW TREE LAYER (DWARF FRUIT TREES)
3. SHRUB LAYER (CURRANTS & BERRIES)
4. HERBACEOUS (COMFREYS, BEETS, HERBS)
5. RHIZOSPHERE (ROOT VEGETABLES)
6. SOIL SURFACE (GROUND COVER, E.G., STRAWBERRY, ETC.)
7. VERTICAL LAYER (CLIMBERS, VINES)

THE FOREST GARDEN: A SEVEN LEVEL BENEFICIAL GUILD
Before.....

After
Step 3. Plot a Plan in Bubbles
Analyze Existing Site

- House orientation
- Seasonal Sun/shade
- Wind direction
- Microclimates
- Soil composition
- Existing plants – location and condition
- Existing structures
- Hardscape
- Elevation and slopes
- Drainage
- Noise and Lights
- Views – outside and from inside house
- Utility placement
- Easements/setbacks
- Potential hazards – fire at natural areas
Slowly add more details…
Step 4. The Budget

- DIY or Hire a professional for the total or specific projects
- Plant one area at a time which takes longer, but is cost effective

- Buy smaller plants – no more than 15 gallon for a tree and 3 gallon for shrub – do not skimp on Quality
- Propagate or swap plants with family and friends
Step 5. Layout Plan to Scale
Step 6. Plan with Design Elements
Design Elements

- **Line** – related to eye movement or flow, horizontal and vertical
- **Form** – shape and structure of plants – upright, spreading
- **Texture** – coarse, medium and fine, leaves, twigs, branches
- **Scale** – size in relation to surroundings
- **Color** – color scheme, warm colors appear closer, cool colors recede, year round color
- **Scent** **

**
Things to Remember

• The final choice of a plant formula is dictated by location, the size of the garden, the site conditions and the kind of garden wanted.
Things to Remember

• Most food-producing plants need sunny locations and well-drained soils.

• Certain fruit trees easily integrate into a landscape - as shade and/or flowering trees as well as edibles.

• Smaller fruiting plants can substitute as shrubbery and some perennial herbs make nice ground covers.

• Both can be inter-planted with existing ornamental shrubs and ground covers.

* Edibles, like vegetables or seasonal herbs that are planted and harvested frequently, should be planted in a garden solely devoted to their production. (Pots)
Choices

**Vegetables**
Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide  (SP103) http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH021
Organic Vegetable Gardening  (Cir 375) http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH019
Minor Vegetables  http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS331

**Fruits**
Fruitscapes Website  http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes/links.html
Dooryard Fruit Varieties  (FC23) http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG248
Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape  (HS867) http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS132

**Herbs**
Herbs in the Florida Garden  (Cir570) http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH020
Possibilities....

Shrubs and Vines:

• **Blackberries** – Sucker, mildly acidic soil
• **Blueberries** – Acidic soil, native or non-native varieties, challenging
• **Grapes** – Native or non-native varieties, limited to 9 varieties for bunch grapes

Deciduous Fruit Trees:

• **Persimmons** – Native or non-native varieties
• **Peaches and Nectarines** – Need varieties adapted to Central Florida
• **Pecans** – Needs a good fertilizer and pest control program
• **Apple** – Needs a good pest control program
• **Fig** – Needs a good pest control program
• **Pears** – Needs a good pest control program
• **Plums** – Needs a good pest control program

Evergreen Fruit trees:

• **Orange, Grapefruit, Lemon, Lime** - Needs a good pest control program
Just a Few Ideas for Your Edible Garden!

**Natives**

- Elderberry
- Prickly Pear cactus
- Wild Onions
- Wild Garlic
- Dandelion
- Peppergrass
- Wild Muscadine
- Cattails
- Sassafras
- Persimmon
- Winged Sumac
- White Clover
- Wild Blueberry
- Wild Blackberry

Beautyberry, and so many more.....
Just a Few Ideas for Your Edible Garden!

VEGGIES:
Beets
Broccoli
Brussels Sprouts
Beans - (Snap, Pole, Lima)
Cabbage
Carrots
Cauliflower
Collards
Cucumbers
Eggplant
Gourds
Kohlrabi
Leaf Lettuce
Mustard Greens
Okra
Onions
Parsley
Peas
Peppers
Potatoes
Radish
Spinach
Sweet Potatoes
Swiss Chard
Summer Squash
Tomatoes
Turnip
Winter Squash

HERBS:
Basil
Bay Laurel
Cilantro and its seeds
Coriander
Dill
Fennel, bronze
Garlic chives
Ginger, keep it in a pot, it would take over the garden
Hyssop (Ysop)
Lemon Balm
Lovage
Lemon Grass
Mints
Nasturtium
Oregano, Italian
Parsley, flat and curly leaved
Pineapple Sage
Rosemary
Rue
Sage
Summer savory
Thyme
Beginning the Process

1. Break the plan up into separate work areas.
2. Choose the first area to begin work.
3. Label the site conditions in that area.
4. Measure area to calculate how many plants are needed.
Beginning the Process

5. Create a list of possible plants for each layer for that area that match the site conditions

6. Choose plants from list, adjust for budget and area size

7. Keep color, shape, texture contrast and mature size in mind
# Plant Selection - Right Plant, Right Place

## Site Characteristics
- sun/shade
- soil pH
- soil type
- compaction
- drainage
- hardiness zone
- area size
- elevation / slopes
- orientation – N,S,E,W
- noise / lights
- views
- structural limitations –
  - power lines
  - underground utilities
  - roof overhangs
  - septic tank / drain field
  - paved surfaces

## Plant Characteristics
- sun / shade
- soil type / pH
- mature height & width
- water needs
- insect resistance
- hardiness
- rate of growth
- root structure
- invasiveness
- wind resistance
- deciduous / evergreen
- gender
- how does it reproduce
- purpose – security
- perennial / annual
Right Plant Right Place???
Beginning the Process

8. Call 811 before you dig

9. Mark plant bed areas

10. Remove unwanted vegetation

11. Plant trees first

12. Mark placement of other plants
Proper Planting

- mulch covering edge of root ball, not piled on top
- top of root ball 10% above grade
- irrigation
- backfill soil
Orange County Extension

Master Gardener

Plant Clinics

Monday-Friday
Extension Education Center
6021 S. Conway Rd.
8:00am - 5:00pm
(407) 254-9200

Tuesday
MREC
2725 Binion Rd.
9:00am - Noon

Wednesday
Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
3:00pm - 5:00pm