

Designing Garden Fresh Landscape

Make It Beautiful, Nutritious & Productive

Grow favorites, often used and/or something new

Grow what is economical (time, energy, space and production) to grow

Look for Opportunities

Foundation Plantings and Front Entrance

Raised bed – to mask well head on patio

Side yard becomes edible & ornamental garden

Hillside – terraced garden outside kitchen door

Think Substitutions - Start from the ground Up

A hedge becomes a row of raspberries, an apple is your shade tree.....

Instead of Japanese maple – use Black Lace or Lemony Lace Elderberry

Functional and Edible – Espaliered apple, cucumbers on trellis – screening

Shade – pleached apples, grapes, kiwi or other perennial vine

Willow Amsonia perennial – replaced with asparagus, dill

Rhubarb as dieback shrub

Edible groundcovers – Strawberries, thyme, mint (CONTAINED), Swiss chard,

Annual color and texture – curled parsley, bull's blood beet

Edible Ornamentals

Juneberry/Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) – 4 season interest, white spring flowers, great fall color, smooth gray bark & edible fruit - nutty blueberry in June

Honeyberry (*Lonicera*) – blueberry like flavor, more adaptable – need two plants

Chokeberry (*Aronia*) – astringent – high in antioxidants

Containers

Pot with drainage holes, fill with well-drained soil

Add slow release fertilizer at start and if needed midway through season,

Water thoroughly as needed (usually once/day)

A few Container Combos

- Ornamental Mustard, kale, pansies (edible), Gloriosa daisy
- Tomato, Pennisetum, nasturtium vine, sweet potato vine
- Tomato, cabbage, curled parsley, zinnia, petunia
- Terenzo tomato
- Kohlrabi with dried eucalyptus, and lotus pods
- Bushels and Berries (Brazelberries)
- Raspberry Shortcake and Baby Cakes Blackberry, Blueberries (Jelly Bean, Peach Sorbet and more)
- Fig (Brown Turkey, Chicago Hardy)
- Just for Fun - Pixie Grape. Ketchup 'n Fries, Egg & Chips, On Deck Corn
- Apple – usually need two for pollination and fruit (some self fertile)
Urban Apple – bear in one or two years (2ft wide, 8 to 10 feet tall)
- Vertical Garden – Shoe caddy turned herb planter (needs watering 2 x/day)
- Creative container options – upcycling is popular
- Green walls/Vertical gardens at Chicago Botanical Garden – thyme, peppers
- Elevated Gardens – Containers with legs (Trug)
- Raised bed - elevate for easy access, improved growing - notice built in seat

Maximize Space & Increase Beauty

- Wide rows – leave just enough room for mature plants
 - Make sure you can reach all plants to manage and harvest
- Decorative design with edibles
- Go vertical, sling heavy fruit on melons and squash
 - Malabar spinach, scarlet runner beans....
- Thinning – remove excess plants so remaining ones have room to grow
- Interplanting – grow short season crops between long season crops
- Succession planting – several crops in one row
 - ie. Start with lettuce, once harvested plant beans, then radishes in fall
- Design for beauty
 - Texture & Color – kale and basil
 - Color Echoing – Peppermint Swiss Chard and Purple Coneflower
 - Ornamental Banana, Peppers, Curled Parsley, Swiss Chard, Vinca
 - Cabbage, silver Falls Dichondra, Prairie Gentian, Artichoke
 - Light in the garden – Bright Lights Swiss Chard
 - Garden Art & Edibles – Swiss Chard and Copper Spiral

Manage the harvest for Beauty & Productivity

- Harvest when mature
- Harvest Regularly to keep plants producing
- Harvest for maximum productivity
 - Swiss Chard – outer leave 8 to 10 inches, leaf lettuce outer leaves 4-6”
 - Cabbage –remove head, leave lower leaves – 4 to 5 smaller heads form

The Basics

- Soil - Moist well drained soils
 - Amend - Add several inches of organic matter to the soil
 - Lasagna, square foot gardening
 - Raised bed
- Fertilize: low N, slow release in spring before planting, mid summer if needed
 - Soil test or 3 lbs of a low nitrogen fertilizer /100 square feet
- Sunlight
 - Full sun (preferably 8 hours or more) - eat the flowers and fruit
 - Part sun (4 to 6 hours) – root crops (radishes, beets...)
 - Shade (4 hours sun) – leafy crops – lettuce, spinach.....

Safe Pest management while growing a beautiful productive landscape

- Work with Nature
- Traps
- Barriers
- Eco-friendly Control Options

Stay Connected

- www.melindamyers.com - audio & video tips, FAQ's, green tips, E-newsletter and more...
- Melinda's Garden Moments nationally syndicated TV and Radio segments, DVDs
- Birds & Blooms, Birds & Blooms Extra, State-by-State Gardening Magazines
- Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide & Month-by-Month Gardening in Michigan
- Can't Miss Small Space Gardening
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