

The Goleta Water District Edible Garden

The Edible Garden is the newest section of the District Demonstration Gardens. It features a variety of innovative attributes including water-wise edible plants and trees, sustainable drainage and rain catchment systems, a Hugelkultur bed (pronounced “hoogal-culture”), and other permaculture principles. The garden illustrates how edible landscaping can be water-efficient, beautiful, and easy to maintain while supporting sustainability in our community.

A sampling of the trees, plants, and other features you will find in the garden.



Raised garden bed with various herbs



Oriental Persimmon / Diospyros kaki 'Fuyu'



Dwarf Fig / Ficus carica 'Black Jack'



Avocado / Persea americana 'Lamb Hass'



Pomegranate / Punica granatum 'Wonderful'



Apricot / Prunus armeniaca



Rain Barrel Water Catchment System



Hugelkultur Bed



Bioswale (Dry Creek Bed)

Did you know that up to 70% of water use in the typical Southern California home is used for outdoor landscaping?

There are many benefits to planting a sustainable and water-wise edible garden at your home, including:

- Improving water conservation (water-wise landscaping) and reducing your water bills
- Reducing food bills and the benefits of eating and sharing food that you grow
- Enhancing health with local high quality food options
- Reducing the carbon emissions that are associated with the transportation of food to your local store



Edible Garden FAQ

Q: What is the new garden around the building on the south side of the District parking lot?

A: The newest section of the District Demonstration Gardens is the Edible Garden! It features water-wise edible trees and plants, creative and affordable irrigation techniques, and demonstrates permaculture principles on a site resembling the front yard of a house.

Q: Why did the District choose to add an Edible Garden to its series of Demonstration Gardens?

A: The goal of the new garden is to model edible landscaping and other sustainable garden features that can be easily implemented and maintained by customers at home.

Q: What types of trees and plants are featured in the Edible Garden?

A: Edible trees and plants that are easy to grow and maintain, aesthetically pleasing, and well suited for our unique South Coast climate. Examples include fruit trees (apple, apricot, avocado, fig, pear, plum, persimmon, pomegranate, guava), edible plants (aloe, artichokes, berries, grapes, kiwi, lemon grass, passionfruit vine), and many different herbs.

Q: Why is the Edible Garden considered easy to maintain?

A: The plants, trees, and landscape features were selected for drought tolerant characteristics, food production, and ease of maintenance. Using mulch and irrigation systems keeps the garden in good health while limiting the need for frequent attention.

Q: Why is there a cactus in the garden? Is the cactus edible?

A: Yes! The cactus plant is a member of the Opuntia family and is known as a "Prickly Pear." It is an exotic plant from Central America that can be eaten in several different ways. You can eat the pads of the cactus or the flowers and fruit it will produce – just be sure to remove the thorns!

Q: What is the big mound in the Edible Garden?

A: It is a Hugelkultur bed (pronounced "hoogal culture"), which is a permaculture technique that uses buried logs to provide nutrients, moisture and drainage to the soil and plants. Eventually, the bed will be self-sustaining and will not require fertilizer or irrigation. It is a great water-saving technique for the garden! More information on Hugelkultur can be found at www.appropedia.org/Hugelkultur.

Q: Can I pick food from the garden?

A: Please do not pick the fruit, vegetables, and herbs at this time. We want to make sure the garden is harvested correctly and at the right time of year to maintain its health. The plants will take some time to establish and produce an edible bounty. Depending on the tree or plant, this may take several months to a couple of years.

Q: What is the big tank on the side of the building that is connected to the gutter down spouts?

A: That is a rain barrel. Rainwater from the roof is fed through gutters into the tank and then used to irrigate the garden. Some of the rainwater from the roof is also fed into a dry pond, or infiltration basin, on the other side of the garden. These features help prevent storm water runoff and minimize the use of potable water for irrigation.

Q: Where can I purchase the trees, plants, and special features of the garden?

A: All of the plants and features of the Edible Garden can be found at local nurseries, irrigation suppliers, and other vendors.

Q: Why is the District investing in its Demonstration Gardens?

A: The Demonstration Gardens help the District meet our statewide conservation requirements and are a community resource providing our customers with valuable tools and information about efficient water use.

Edible Garden Site Map



■ Shrubs, Groundcovers and Perennials
 ■ Trees
 ■ Other Sustainable Garden Features
 numbered plant list and features on reverse

The Edible Garden features water-wise edible trees and plants, sustainable drainage and rain catchment techniques, and demonstrates permaculture principles on a site resembling the front yard of a house.

The low maintenance plants and trees featured in the edible garden are beautiful, easy to grow and maintain, and well-suited for the local climate. Rainwater from the roof is fed through gutters into two areas; a rain barrel tank, which is then used to irrigate the garden; and a dry pond, known as an infiltration basin, on the other side of the garden. The garden also features various mulching options and permeable surfaces to further prevent storm water runoff and minimize the need for potable water for irrigation.



Edible Garden Plant List and Features

Shrubs, Groundcovers and Perennials

ID	Botanical Name	Common Name
1	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
2	<i>Actinidia</i>	Self-fruitful Kiwi
3	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	Tree Aloe
4	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Medicinal Aloe
5	<i>Aloysia citrodora</i>	Lemon Verbena
6	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort
7	<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i> 'David's Choice'	Coastal Sagewort
8	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush
9	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks'	Prostrate Coyote Brush
10	<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Centennial'	Wild Lilac
11	<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Concha'	Concha California Lilac
12	<i>Ceanothus griseus horizontalis</i> 'Yankee Point'	Ceanothus Yankee Point
13	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Lemongrass
14	<i>Cynara scolymus</i> 'Green Globe'	Artichoke
15	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Warriner Lytle'	California Buckwheat
16	<i>Eriogonum grande rubescens</i>	Red Flowered Buckwheat
17	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i> 'Boca Rosa'	Island Snapdragon
18	<i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Stella d'Oro'	Daylily
19	<i>Juncus patens</i>	Rush
20	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Sweet Bay
21	<i>Lavandula</i> 'Goodwin Creek Grey'	Lavender Goodwin Creek
22	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky Monkeyflower
23	<i>Opuntia</i> 'Burbank Thornless'	Fruiting Nopal
24	<i>Origanum vulgare hirtum</i>	Greek Oregano
25	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	Passionfruit Vine
26	<i>Ribes aureum gracillimum</i>	Golden Currant
27	<i>Ribes indecorum</i>	White Flowering Currant
28	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral Currant
29	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> var. <i>glutinatum</i>	Red Flowering Currant
30	<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Wild Rose
31	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Garden Sage
32	<i>Salvia officinalis purpurea</i>	Purple Garden Sage
33	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry
34	<i>Solidago californica</i>	California Goldenrod
35	<i>Thyme</i>	Groundcover Thyme

Shrubs, Groundcovers and Perennials (continued)

ID	Botanical Name	Common Name
36	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> 'Silver Lace' Variegated	Society Garlic
37	<i>Vaccinium</i> 'Sunshine Blue'	Southern Highbush Blueberry
38	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	European Grape
39	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California Fuchsia
40	<i>Escholzia californica</i>	California Poppy
41	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Alpine Strawberry
42	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Oregano
43	<i>Thymus citrodorus</i>	Lemon Thyme

Trees

ID	Botanical Name	Common Name
1	<i>Diospyros kaki</i> 'Fuyu'	Oriental Persimmon
2	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	Pineapple Guava
3	<i>Ficus carica</i> 'Black Jack'	Edible Fig
4	<i>Malus</i> 'Anna'	Apple
5	<i>Persea Americana</i> 'Gwen'	Dwarf Haas Avocado
6	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	Apricot
7	<i>Prunus</i>	Plum
8	<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Strawberry Guava
9	<i>Punica granatum</i> 'Wonderful'	Pomegranate
10	<i>Pyrus</i> '20th Century'	Pear
11	<i>Pyrus</i> 'Shinseiki'	Asian Pear

Other Sustainable Garden Features

ID	Feature
A	Bioswale (dry creek bed) sloped away from the street
B	Cedar Split Rail Fence & Gate
C	Dry Well (fed from rain barrel overflow)
D	Hugelkultur Bed
E	Infiltration Basin (dry pond)
F	Permeable Walkway (decomposed granite)
G	Rain Barrel Water Catchment System
H	Sitting Area (benches & arbors)
I	Solar Powered Water Pump