

A PUBLICATION FROM THE APLD CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN

edible landscaping

EDIBLES FOR EVERYONE

GROWING TOGETHER:
A HARVEST-TO-TABLE
FAMILY JOURNEY

CULTIVATING CONNECTION
IN A "ROMANTIC
ECLECTIC" GARDEN



Association of
Professional
Landscape
Designers

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SPRING 2025 | VOL. 7, NO. 1 | APRIL 2025



Explore Your Potential with APLD California

APLD California isn't just about certification; it's about building connections that inspire and opportunities that empower. From seasoned experts to emerging talents, our members thrive together. Learn more about our membership categories and how APLD can enrich your professional life at apldca.org/membership.

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CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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APLD CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Association of
Professional
Landscape
Designers

California Chapter

PUBLICATION

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& Designer

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& Designer (2024)

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Andrea Doonan

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Patricia St. John, CPLD

Gün Ünsal

and

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SPRING 2025

Edible plants transform gardens into vibrant, nourishing spaces that feed both body and spirit.

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Cover photo by Patricia St. John





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Edibles for Everyone

Photo courtesy of Patricia St. John



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Photo © Bay Area Garden Design

Growing Together: A Harvest-to-Table Family Journey

Creating an urban farm oasis to nurture connection, celebrate food, and create cherished family memories.



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"Bearss" lime in an artful Le Beau™ pot from Flora Grubb Gardens.
Photo © Jude Parkinson-Morgan

“Romantic Eclectic” Garden: Cultivating Connection

Uniting sculptural planters and edible abundance to grow beauty, flavor, and community connection.

A Letter from the California Chapter President Gün Ünsal



Cultivating Leadership: Growing APLD California Together

As we step into another exciting year for APLD California, I want to recognize the dedicated individuals serving on our chapter Board of Directors. Their commitment to advocacy, education, and community-building strengthens our profession and ensures a vibrant future for landscape design.

The APLD CA Board plays a vital role in shaping our industry. We advocate for members by working with state legislators to expand and clarify the role of landscape designers. We offer ongoing education through training—like our Vectorworks community group and industry-leading webinars—and we foster connection through Groups.io, social media, and in-person events such as plant fairs and networking gatherings.

This year, we're especially excited to welcome the [APLD International Landscape Design Conference](#), hosted by our San Diego District, April 24–28. It's an unparalleled opportunity to connect with fellow members, industry leaders, and potential collaborators. If you haven't decided yet, now is the time—the **April 11 registration deadline** is fast approaching!

For those who missed our [Slow the Burn Symposium](#), recorded sessions are now available for purchase. With firescaping more critical than ever, we encourage you to [read our update](#) on recent executive orders in California.

Our Board thrives on the passion and energy of volunteers. Fresh ideas and new perspectives are key to advancing our mission. Whether you can contribute a few hours or step into a leadership role, your involvement will help shape the future of APLD CA. The best way to understand—and influence—our organization is to join the Board.

This issue celebrates edible landscaping—a testament to the power of intentional care. Just as an edible garden nourishes its community, our chapter flourishes when members step up to participate. Join us in strengthening APLD CA, and together let's cultivate a future as abundant as the landscapes we design.

I would love to hear from you — please feel free to reach out any time: president@apldca.org.

Wishing you all a bountiful spring and a thriving 2025!

Gün Ünsal

APLD California Chapter President 2025

APLD Bay Area District President 2022-2024



Our mission is to advance the profession of landscape design and to promote our members as qualified and dedicated professionals.



apldca.org



California Landscape Design (CLD) Newsletter/Magazine including an archive of past editions



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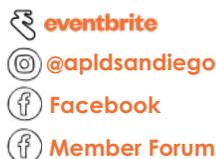
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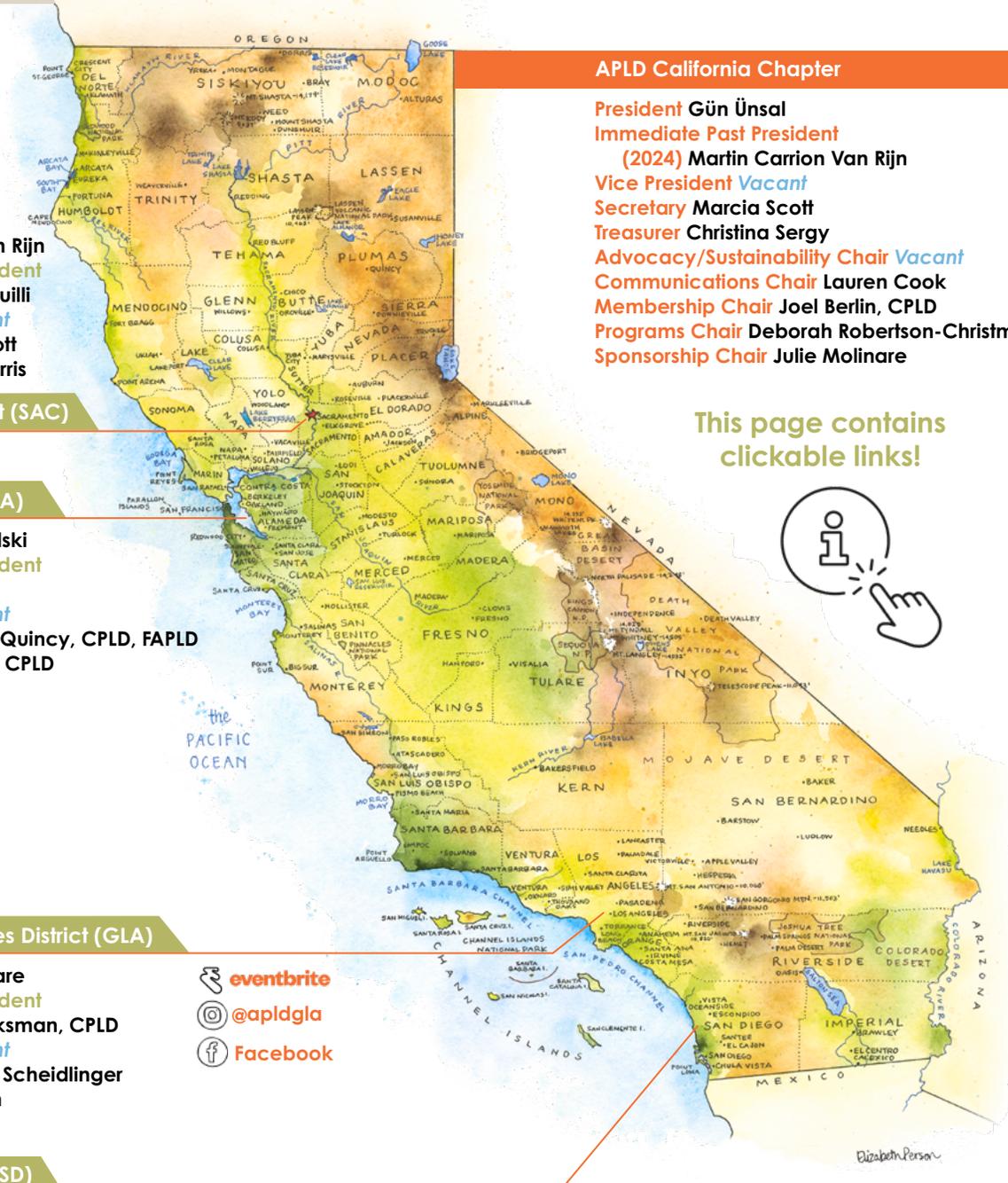


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Take your practice to the next level of professionalism.
Become a member and join us!





WELCOME ALL

Professionals

Individuals who engage in the practice of landscape design for monetary compensation and have **more than 3 years** of professional landscape design experience.

ANGEL CARRASCO

Promise Path Landscaping
Chula Vista, CA

MIKE FITZGERALD

Mike's Evergreen
Clovis, CA

DJORDJE MILIC

IRI Landscape
Walnut Creek, CA

JOHAN RESTREPO

Cali Scaping
Moraga, CA

TRACE IEST ROBINSON

Trace Iest Robinson
Landscape Designer
Santa Barbara, CA

RICK WEIL

Conscapes
San Carlos, CA

Emerging Professionals

Individuals who engage in the practice of landscape design for monetary compensation and have **less than 3 years** of professional landscape design experience.

JILL DEVENDORF

Jill Dev Designs
Fallbrook, CA

MAUREEN GIBBONS

LAPAT Garden Design
Solana Beach, CA

SHARON HIGGINS

Reed Garden Design
San Francisco, CA

LESLI KENDALL

Urban National Garden Design
San Diego, CA

RACHEL MARCOTTE

Poppy Fine Gardening
Oakland, CA

DENA ROCHELLE

Seul Terre
Lafayette, CA

Enthusiasts

Individuals practicing in related or associated fields.

JOHN CLEMENTS

Drab to Fab
Encinitas, CA

Students

Individuals actively enrolled, on a full- or part-time basis, in a Landscape Design, Landscape Architecture or Horticulture program.

KAREN AGUILAR

Alameda, CA

ALI MAIORANO

Oakland, CA

MELANIE ALBERT

Laguna Niguel, CA

KELLEY MARTIN

Oakland, CA

NEW MEMBERS



We are thrilled to welcome the latest additions to the APLD California Chapter, who represent diverse locations and bring fresh perspectives to our designer community. Members who joined after March 2025 will be listed in the next issue. **Visit our chapter website for the most up to date list of members.**

WESLEY ALLEN

Oakland, CA

RENEE MCKEON

Oakland, CA

HAMMOOD ALSADOON

El Cajon, CA

ANGELA NOBLE

San Diego, CA

GINA BUSH

Gina Bush Landscape
Palos Verdes Estates, CA

DANI SANCHEZ

San Diego, CA

CHARLOTTE DAVIS

San Francisco, CA

LOLA SANTOS

Oakland, CA

BRANDIE HEINEL

Berkeley, CA

BART SCHAFER

El Cajon, CA

HUNTER JOHNSON

San Leandro, CA

AISHA SHARPE

Berkeley, CA

VERONICA KANNO

San Jose, CA

DEREK SHEWFELT

Los Altos, CA

SAMANTHA LONG

Menlo Park, CA

KATHRYN AMELIA

WATTS

Oakland, CA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dena Rochelle

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL
LAFAYETTE, CA

SEUL TERRE

How did you learn about APLD and what do you hope to gain through your membership?

Karly Silicani, my neighborhood friend and Bay Area APLD board member, introduced me to APLD. I attended my first event—the 2024 Bay Area Designer Plant Fair—and enjoyed connecting with local designers. Meeting landscape professionals with a similar mindset and vision is incredibly rewarding. It's nice to have a network to share ideas and experiences. I also love collaborating on projects with others.

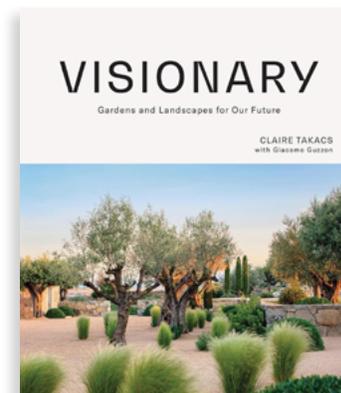
What environmentally sustainable concepts do you apply to your landscape design practice?

I always prefer low-water plants and avoid turf or plastic weed barriers. While I personally favor lawn-free landscapes, many clients still feel a 'need' for them. I enjoy introducing people to creative, sustainable alternatives.

What's your favorite landscape design style?

I don't have a favorite style—they can all be beautiful. I describe my approach as Curated Modern, blending contemporary and naturalistic aesthetics. I favor structured, modern spaces near the home that transition into flowing waves of a refined plant palette farther out. I love using uncommon plants—ones your neighbor doesn't have yet—which takes persistence, patience, and sometimes convincing clients to try something new. Many plants I tracked down for my own garden years ago are now more widely available, and it's rewarding to use them in designs with firsthand knowledge. Ultimately, my favorite style is one that feels unique.

Do you have a favorite landscape design book or website you would like to share?



Visionary: Gardens and Landscapes for Our Future by photographer Claire Takacs and landscape architect Giacomo Guzzon

How did you learn about APLD and what do you hope to gain through your membership?

Andrea Doonan, who is deeply involved with APLD, introduced me, and I'm inspired by the vibrant community she has helped cultivate. I attended a few events and really enjoyed connecting—everyone was so open and generous. It's always a pleasure to be around fellow plant and design enthusiasts! I love learning how different designers work and how freely they share their knowledge. It's a beautiful community, and I'm always grateful to spend time with my APLD group—the conversations are truly inspiring.

What environmentally sustainable concepts do you apply to your landscape design practice?

Swales, native plants, and drought-tolerant plants are fundamental elements in nearly every design I create.

What's your favorite landscape design style?

That's a tricky question because each project is unique and depends on the space's needs. My main focus is on creating sanctuary-like spaces, and what that means can vary widely for each client. That said, my designs emphasize vitality, using a variety of textures, colors, and plant heights. It's essential for the design to create space for reconnection—with ourselves, nature, and our communities.



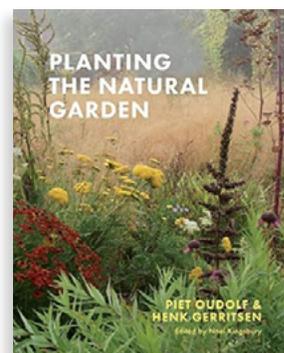
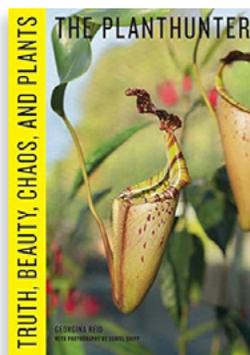
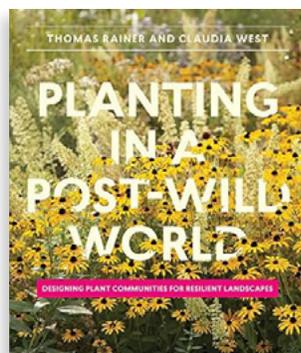
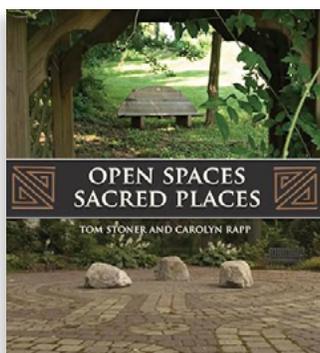
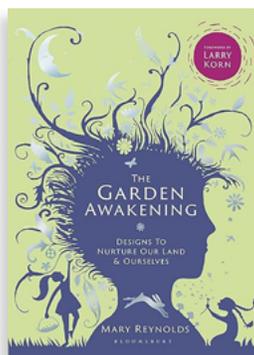
Julia Parker

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL
SAN DIEGO, CA

SOULFUL SPACES

Do you have a favorite landscape design book or website you would like to share?

Whew, it's tough to pick just one! I love *The Garden Awakening*, *Open Spaces Sacred Places*, *The Planthunter*, *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, *Planting the Natural Garden*, and many more.



SPRING CALENDAR

To add an event to the APLD California calendar, send updates, or for questions: communications@apldca.org

View APLD and industry-related events and subscribe to our Google calendar: apldca.org/apld-events



ALL TIMES ARE DISPLAYED IN PACIFIC TIME

ONLINE

Vectorworks APLD Landmark Community Group Meetings

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 | 3:00-4:30 PM

Presenter **John Black** returns to expand on February's back-to-basics talk—focusing on resources, customizing, and templates.

TUESDAY, MAY 13 | 3:00-4:30 PM

Presenter **Bryan Goff** will be discussing fire safety systems and wildfire suppression and management.

Contact [Francesca Corra](#) at least two days in advance to receive the Zoom link and be added to future meeting invitations.

APLD California Members: Friday "Water Cooler" Chats

3RD FRIDAYS | 2:30-4:00 PM

Starting on April 18th, the APLD Greater Los Angeles (GLA) District will begin hosting a monthly online meeting to discuss topics of our choosing — as if we are hanging out at our virtual water cooler.

Watch for details in our main [Groups.io](#) member group or contact [Christina Sergy](#).

APLD San Diego District Board Meetings

2ND WEDNESDAYS | 3:30-5:30 PM

Free and open to all San Diego District members. Whenever possible, the group meets in person.

Contact [Joel Berlin](#) at least two days in advance to receive the Zoom link or meeting location details, and be added to future meeting invitations.

WEBINAR

APLD INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

Transcendent Spaces: Master the Art of Integrating Pools, Landscapes, and Architecture for Lasting Emotional Impact (1 CEU)

THURSDAY, MAY 15 | 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Step into a new realm of design where pools, landscapes, and architecture unite as a single artistic vision—much like the brushstrokes of a master painter or the frames of a world-class photographer. In this transformative webinar, you'll learn how to break free from siloed thinking and harmonize these elements into an immersive experience that captivates, comforts, and endures. Discover how each material, shape, and vista works in concert to evoke emotion, invite awe, and create timeless spaces that linger in the memory of anyone who steps inside.

Presented by **Kirk Bianchi**, WaterScapes by Bianchi Design

[Get Tickets Here](#) Registration closes May 13



Photo © Bianchi Design

SAVE THE DATES

DETAILS COMING SOON

APLD GREATER L.A. PRESENTS
Rion Naus on Soils

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 | TBD
WEBINAR

APLD INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
Annie Guilfoyle

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 | 8:00-9:00 AM
WEBINAR

APLD GREATER L.A. PRESENTS
Firescaping: Reports from the Burn Zones

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 | TBD
ROUNDTABLE WEBINAR

IN PERSON

Association of Professional Landscape Designers

INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONFERENCE

APRIL 24 - 28 | HOSTED BY APLD SAN DIEGO DISTRICT

JOIN US!

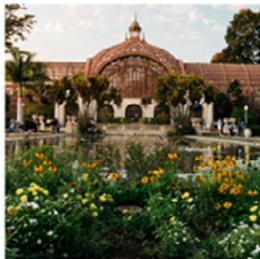
CONFERENCE BROCHURE

ONLINE REGISTRATION

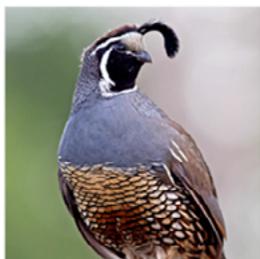
The deadline
to register or cancel
is Friday, April 11



A L O V E L E T T E R T O



B I O D I V E R S I T Y



Connect with designers from around the world during APLD's 2025 International Landscape Design Conference. Join us in San Diego County, the most biodiverse county in the United States. It features a range of ecosystems, including beaches, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodlands, conifer-dotted mountains, and the Anza-Borrego desert, all accessible within a few hours' drive.

This year's conference theme, Biodiversity, highlights the variety of flora that is cultivated here as well as the responsible practices designers can employ to respect the climate and surrounding plant ecosystems that support local wildlife

Gain fresh ideas and insights during our informational sessions, spend time networking with fellow design professionals and exhibitors, and be inspired during our garden tours.

Register now!

Questions about conference?

Contact [Lori Zelesko](#).

Making the trip out for a longer spring break?

There's more to explore beyond the conference, including historical neighborhoods, beach communities, state parks, gardens, and iconic attractions. [Click here](#) for a detailed list provided by the APLD San Diego Conference Local Site Committee.

APLD VIRTUAL CHAPTER PRESENTS

APLD Certification Preparation Course
with **Marti Neely, FAPLD, CPLD, NCLP**

STARTS WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 | SERIES OF 6 ONLINE SESSIONS

[Details and Registration Here](#) Space is limited!

ADVOCACY MATTERS

We advocate for many important causes that impact our members, profession, environment, and issues with respect to equity and justice.



WATER: MWELO REVISIONS

Great news! The latest MWELO revisions are now officially in place, thanks to the efforts of our APLD CA Advocacy Committee.

Landscape designers are now officially recognized as the "designer of record" and "designee," allowing us to submit MWELO plans for clients.

This seemingly simple change is a significant win, as local planning departments often excluded us from the process. After years of persistent advocacy and monitoring, our voices have finally been heard.

A huge thank you to **Cheryl Buckwalter** and **Francesca Corra** for their dedication in tracking the revisions on behalf of APLD CA.

These revisions mark an important step forward for landscape designers.

For those interested, [read the latest MWELO with updated regulations.](#)

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) is a California regulation designed to promote water-efficient landscaping and irrigation practices. The ordinance sets requirements for new and renovated landscapes to reduce water waste, applying to landscaped areas larger than 500 square feet.



ENVIRONMENT

FIRE: NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER & SLOW THE BURN SYMPOSIUM VIDEOS

As wildfires continue to impact Los Angeles and beyond, Governor Newsom has signed a [new executive order](#) advancing key initiatives to adapt urban areas to extreme fire events and build a more fire-resilient California.

Visit the APLD CA blog for [key takeaways](#) from the executive order and to access practical firescaping resources, including our [Slow the Burn Symposium](#).

Originally presented online by APLD CA in 2022, *Slow the Burn: Creating Beautiful Landscapes in the Face of Water Scarcity and Fire* remains highly relevant today. This rich resource features **expert insights, research, case studies, and practical strategies for designing resilient landscapes** — especially for projects in Wildland Urban (and suburban) Interface (WUI) Zones. The Symposium program is suited for all landscape professionals, from novice to seasoned, working on residential or commercial sites, new or renovated.

[Symposium video recordings are now available](#) to the public for a fee and—thanks to the support of our sponsors—to APLD CA members at a discounted rate.

Greg Rubin, a leading expert in native landscaping and fire resilience, [shares his insights](#) on the 2025 Los Angeles firestorms in a new document addressing the challenges and misconceptions surrounding fire-safe landscaping.



What do YOU advocate for?

The Advocacy Committee and its working groups give you a chance to make meaningful contributions, and to give your ideas wings!



LEGISLATION



EDUCATION



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI)



OUTREACH



Join a global coalition supporting sustainable alternatives to plastic plant pots!

For more information on our Advocacy efforts, and to get involved, click to email us: advocacy@apldca.org



ADVOCACY
CHAIRPERSON
NEEDED

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN?

APLD California is seeking a dedicated individual to fill the vacant role of Advocacy Chair. This is your opportunity to coordinate and lead our advocacy efforts, promote sustainable practices, and influence policy.

If you are a motivated landscape designer with a vision for the future, we want to hear from you!

Key Responsibilities:

- Represent APLD CA in advocacy initiatives.
- Collaborate with policy makers and industry stakeholders.
- Drive awareness on key issues affecting the landscape design industry.

Interested? Let's talk! Send an email to president@apldca.org and visit our [Advocacy webpage](#) for more information.

EDIBLES for EVERYONE





Have you noticed that when shortages hit, people become eager to grow their own fruits and veggies to keep their families well-fed?

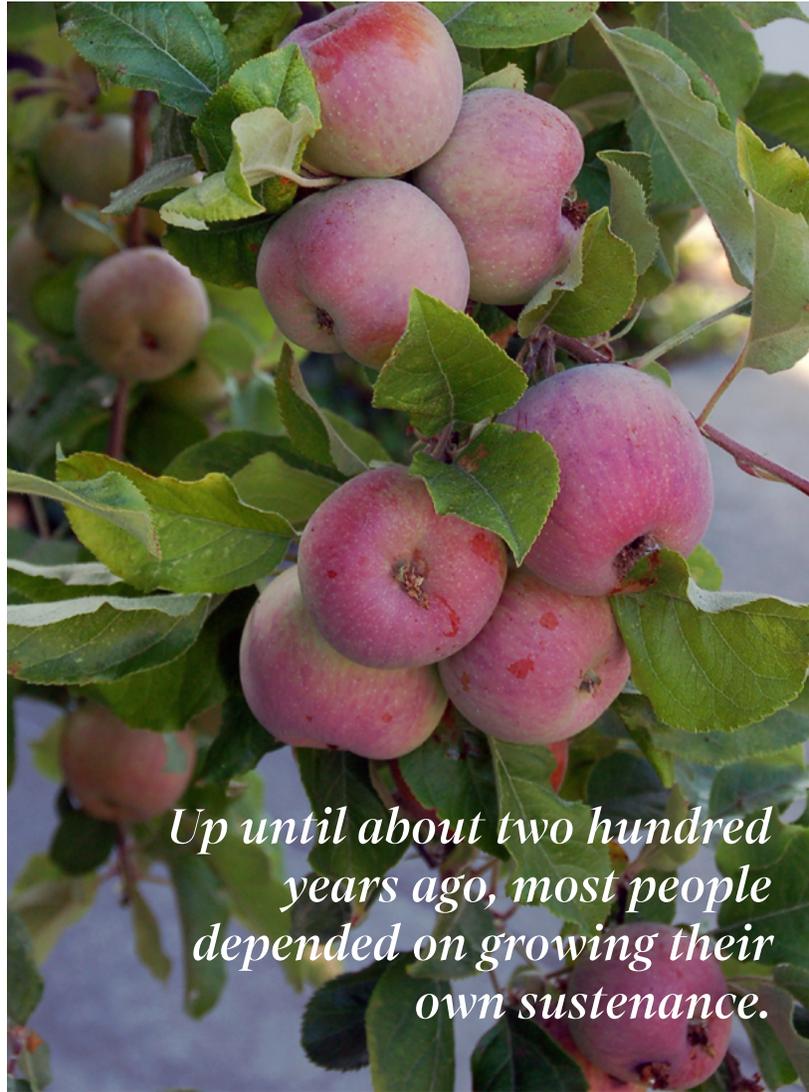
Most of us don't remember the Victory Gardens that Americans were encouraged to grow during World Wars I and II. These community gardens were crucial in helping people stay fed, stay connected, and boosted wartime morale. We saw a big surge of interest during the quarantine of COVID-19, too, though this time it was more of a personal, grassroots movement driven by a desire for self-sufficiency, stress relief, and a deeper connection to nature.

Up until about two hundred years ago, most people depended on growing their own sustenance. Plants are crucial to the human diet. And growing our own vegetables, herbs, and fruit better empowers us to be healthy eaters.

Planting, tending, harvesting, savoring, and sharing our own vegetables and fruits has to be one of the nutritious and rewarding experiences on earth. Stepping out of our the back door to pick a lush tomato or crisp sugar snap pea—and enjoying it on the spot—is heavenly!

Left: When designing, be sure to leave at least a 2' space between the beds to allow for a wheelbarrow.

Above right: Espaliered fruit trees save space, produce easy-to-harvest fruit, and add a striking architectural element. **Right:** A fresh single-day harvest of colorful flavors ready to enjoy.



Up until about two hundred years ago, most people depended on growing their own sustenance.





This past spring, my family potted several types of strawberries on the railing of our deck. We delighted in going out every day to pick the super-sweet fruit – especially the Alpine strawberries with their concentrated flavor.

Have you ever tasted a home-grown tomato? I've stopped buying tomatoes in the grocery store – they simply don't compare! And the green beans are so sweet and crisp. I eat them straight from the vine; they don't need cooking.



And potatoes! We grew eight pounds of Yukon Golds this past summer; they were the creamiest, best-tasting potatoes I have ever eaten.

Taste is not the only part that is terrific with home-grown edibles; they are more nutritious because the time from harvest to table is dramatically shortened. Did you know that the more purple a veggie is the higher antioxidant content it has? A few examples are Cherokee Purple, Indigo Rose, Black Cherry tomatoes, and 'Rich Purple Pod' heirloom pole beans, to name a few.

Another benefit is that we save on energy consumption (farm equipment, food transportation, etc.). For example, if we grow our own lettuce, we save four to eight times as much water as a farmer would need to produce the same lettuce.



Photos this page: Squash and lettuces will thrive in pots but require more careful monitoring for moisture and sun. Fresh-picked cherry tomatoes shine like gems, bursting with unbeatable flavor! A few beauties from our bounteous Yukon Gold potato harvest.



Rosalind Creasy's front garden in Los Altos is an excellent example of mixing edibles with ornamentals.



When I think about designing edibles into an ornamental garden, I have placed them within the ornamental beds and also as separate beds, the latter in raised beds. Rosalind Creasy's front garden in Los Altos is an excellent example of mixing edibles with ornamentals. Just make sure none of the ornamentals are poisonous because if children get in the habit of harvesting the edibles (which we'd love for them to do), we don't want anyone mistaking a poisonous plant for an edible one.



Above: I had the pleasure of visiting Rosalind Creasy's home during the 2012 APLD International Landscape Design Conference. Creasy is widely regarded for creating the definitive guide to blending beauty and productivity in edible garden design. (See the [Resources sidebar](#) on page 19.)



When creating raised beds, either with Corten steel or redwood (never pressure-treated fir), I usually make them 18" high and place a 1' x 4' hardwood ledge on top of the Corten steel or a 2' x 6' ledge on redwood to provide a shelf to work from. When I place raised beds next to a patio (which is ideal for socializing and picking produce simultaneously), I will extend the 2x6 by a board (with support) to become a seating bench. If you are designing edible planting beds, make sure to leave at least a 2' space between the beds to allow a wheelbarrow to go between the rows.

I place raised beds or edible growing space as close to the home as possible. The features closest to the house get the most attention. And even though veggies and herbs are best irrigated with parallel lines of in-line drip tubing, they all benefit from a hose-sprinkling of overhead water every couple of weeks to keep the dust and insects at bay.



Above: Planting beds situated close to the home and/or patio are great for socializing. Our furry friends are yet another good reason for raised beds.



The features closest to the house get the most attention



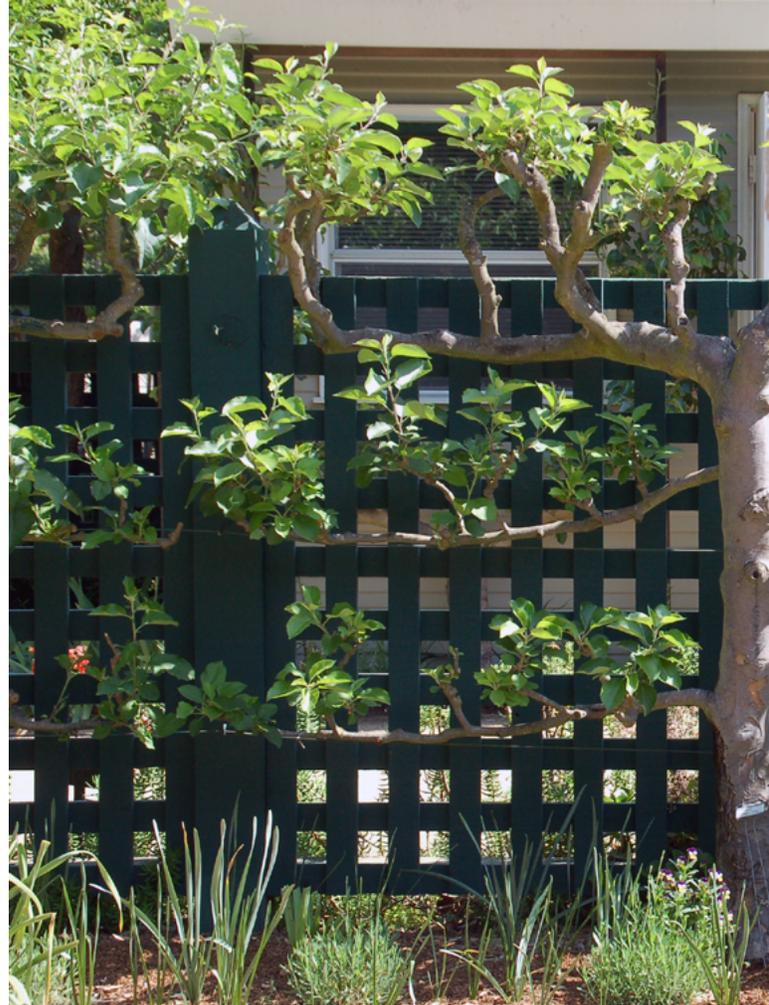
Don't forget the utility of pots! Not only do they bring color and focus to a garden, but they can also be a great holder for citrus (which can live their whole life in a generous pot, given regular pruning and an occasional root pruning) and a perfect place to grow blueberries, which need an acidic soil to thrive. Plant two or more for best pollination and berry production. Fabric pots (or grow bags) will also work if space, flexibility, and location are issues.

(continued on next page)

Above: A kitchen garden just outside the door means fresh flavors at your fingertips. ■ Blueberries in colorful pots by the entrance make for easy, spontaneous (and delicious!) picking.



And then there are fruit trees. They can serve as an architectural statement in the garden and add beauty – spring blossoms, the much-awaited summer-fall fruit, and sometimes amazing fall color – think persimmon trees. And because of the bounty, friends and neighbors benefit too. If your space is limited or you have a relatively narrow planting area, espaliered apple, pear, or plum trees are a good option. They need regular pruning to keep them on the straight and narrow, but the fruit is easy to harvest and keep track of if there is more than one variety.



I learned about soil working at Common C supply store in Palo A was owned by John Je on organic methods fo planters for edibles. W in to prepare for plant or herb gardens, they soil for basic nitrogen, potassium for 50¢ per soil would test low for from the previous seas for phosphorus and po soil test before plantin

Left: This lush edible garden n
Above: This espaliered tree se

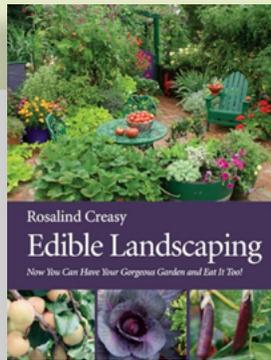


WHEN TO GROW VEGETABLES

“If you eat the **leaf, tuber, or flower bud**, the vegetable prefers **cool conditions**, for instance, lettuce, chard, radishes, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

If you eat the **fruit** (tomatoes and squash are botanically categorized fruits), or the **seeds** like corn and beans, it needs **warm conditions** to produce well.”

— Rosalind Creasy, *Edible Landscaping*



RESOURCES

Rosalind Creasy • [*Edible Landscaping*](#) *The first book to come out for homeowners growing their own veggies, fruits, and herbs*

Pam Peirce • [*Golden Gate Gardening*](#) and [*The San Francisco Chronicle*](#) *archive of articles and blog*

Ann Ralph • [*Grow a Little Fruit Tree*](#) *Simple care and pruning for fruit trees in the small-space residential garden*

John Jeavons • [*How to Grow More Vegetables*](#) *Covers soil preparation and nutrition for growing edible crops, and the importance of companion planting*

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources • [*Statewide Integrated Pest Management Programs*](#)

and nutrition while Ground, the organic lto, in the '90s. It avons and focused or preparing soil and When customers came ing their vegetable would test their phosphorus, and test. Invariably, the nitrogen (depleted son's plants) but fine potassium. So, a basic g is a good idea, and

adding compost at each planting time is essential for soil health. Organic farmers often say they are growing soil, not plants.

If you plan to grow in containers, as we do on our sunny front deck, consider filling them with fast-draining potting soil. Then, fertilize with a balanced liquid fertilizer, such as 16-16-16, according to the directions on the bottle. (My husband uses half the recommended dosage twice as often.) Of course, fertilizing depends on what you are growing. Blueberries, which are blooming in our pots right now, need a regular dose of an acidic fertilizer.

maximizes space with vertical growth, combining productivity with a compact design. serves as a striking focal point while offering a subtle, breathable privacy screen.



Pests and diseases: they come and go. With careful observation and patience, you will see the cycle of harmful insects and their predators. For instance, it takes the presence of aphids to attract the syrphid (hover) flies and other insects that feed on the aphids. But when the damage gets too bad – at whatever level you feel is intolerable – your best resource is a search on the [Integrated Pest Management](http://www.integratedpestmanagement.org) website, where they list treatment that does the least harm to the affected area and the rest of the environment.





Last but not least, don't forget the importance of pollinators: bees, butterflies, all the other beneficial insects, and hummingbirds. Composite/daisy flowers are great for attracting pollinators, herbs left to flower, salvias, etc. One year, we had plenty of flowers but no setting squash from our squash plants: we found out later that they needed a specific squash bee that was not attracted to our garden!



Berkeley is my home. My first five years were next door to my grandparent's home, in what was then, a Finnish immigrant community in West Berkeley. Two of my best memories were of my grandmother tending her roses in her front garden and the apricot jam

she made from the fruit tree in her backyard. My mother was also an avid gardener and a frequent shopper at Flowerland Nursery and East Bay Nursery from the 50's through the 80's.

I know that is where my love of gardening was nurtured. I became a landscape designer and have, for the past 30 years or so, been able to work with homeowners to create gardens that they love too. I've noticed changing interests in the gardens: people wanting more room for edible plants and fruit trees, having more awareness of planting flowers for pollinators (especially for bees and butterflies), and being more diligent in planting California natives.

The great thing about APLD is being around others who feel as passionately as I do about plants and gardens. I get to share and interact with amazing people who love the environment and want to learn more.

The main change during my career is that organic gardening, composting, California native plants, planting for pollinators, edible gardens, (and more) have become prominent areas of focus. I've also noticed an increased awareness about how nurturing and healing a well-planned and well-cared-for garden can be.

PATRICIA ST. JOHN, CPLD, an APLD Certified Fellow, has been designing residential gardens for 27 years on both sides of the San Francisco Bay. A longstanding APLD member, her work has received multiple APLD International Landscape Design Awards and has been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Sunset Magazine*, along with several books on garden design. In addition to her design practice, she spent nine years as an instructor in the Landscape Horticulture department at Merritt College in Oakland.

Be sure to say hello to Patricia at the APLD International Landscape Design Conference in San Diego!



Saratoga Lawn-to-Garden Conversion

DESIGNER: Gün Ünsal

COMPANY: Blue Hibiscus Gardens

LOCATION: Saratoga, CA

INSTALLATION: Oplands



My clients initially contacted me because their garden-area lawn was neglected and unused. Now retired with time to garden, they wanted vegetable beds and a space for their grandchildren to play. While they wished to keep the surrounding fruit trees, the trees needed pruning and were planted too far below the soil line, requiring correction and some replacement.

In speaking with the clients, I learned they had previously obtained some sketches from paver companies. I wanted to give them a design that was both functional and visually appealing—even during seasonal times when the vegetable beds would be fallow.

They were surprised and delighted with my design for an octagonal raised bed with a teardrop-shaped path, which echoed existing curves in the yard and fit with their trapezoidal fence line. The path allows easy access to the trees, the vegetable beds, and creates space for the grandkids to ride tricycles.

I added a water feature to soften nearby highway noise and provide habitat value. The rest of the backyard had brick features, so I used similar bricks for the path border to tie it together. A bench now offers a spot to watch the children play, and a hose bib and low-voltage lighting improve usability and ambiance.



AFTER INSTALLATION



In addition to the vegetable beds, my planting design included grapes over a new arbor, a Black Jack fig, lemongrass, rosemary, culinary sage, thyme, low-water flowering salvias, and Mediterranean-climate groundcovers and shrubs.

My clients later added a solar-powered zapping system to protect their veggies from predation.

PHOTOGRAPHY © [BLUE HIBISCUS GARDENS & OPULANDS](#)



Above: The home's original front yard lawn...yawn.



Above: Modern Landscaping, Inc. employees expertly installed all the garden elements.



“Romantic Eclectic” Garden: Cultivating Connection

DESIGNER: John Black, RLA, CPLD
COMPANY: Verdance Landscape Architecture
LOCATION: Palo Alto, CA

This Palo Alto garden, designed by Verdance Landscape Architecture and brought to life by Modern Landscaping, Inc., reflects the client's passion for gardening and cooking. Their goal was an artful, water-efficient landscape with space to grow fruits, vegetables, and culinary herbs.

With limited sunlight due to the home's aspect and adjacent trees, a site analysis identified the front yard as the best location for edibles. However, unsightly vegetable

boxes were out of the question for such a prominent place.

The solution introduced unique, sculptural planters that remain visually striking even in the dormant season. Two sinuous



weathering steel frames, expertly fabricated by Drake Welding, echo a nearby seat wall's curves, gracefully linking the front walk to an informal seating nook.

The planters brim with dwarf blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes,

fennel, basil, and companion flowers, including nasturtium and marigold. Two cultivars of columnar apple trees were planted in the ground, while compact lime and mandarin orange trees in colorful pots add fragrance and seasonal fruit.

Beyond fulfilling the owner's initial wishes, the garden provided an unexpected lifeline during the COVID-19 quarantine. Tending it relieved the anxiety of being housebound, and from that front yard sprang countless conversations with passersby also yearning for connection.

Despite the ongoing challenge of deterring birds and rodents, the garden remains welcoming and productive more than six years after its creation. With appropriate cultivars, superb craftsmanship, and a design that celebrates its function, the space continues to yield both bounty and beauty.



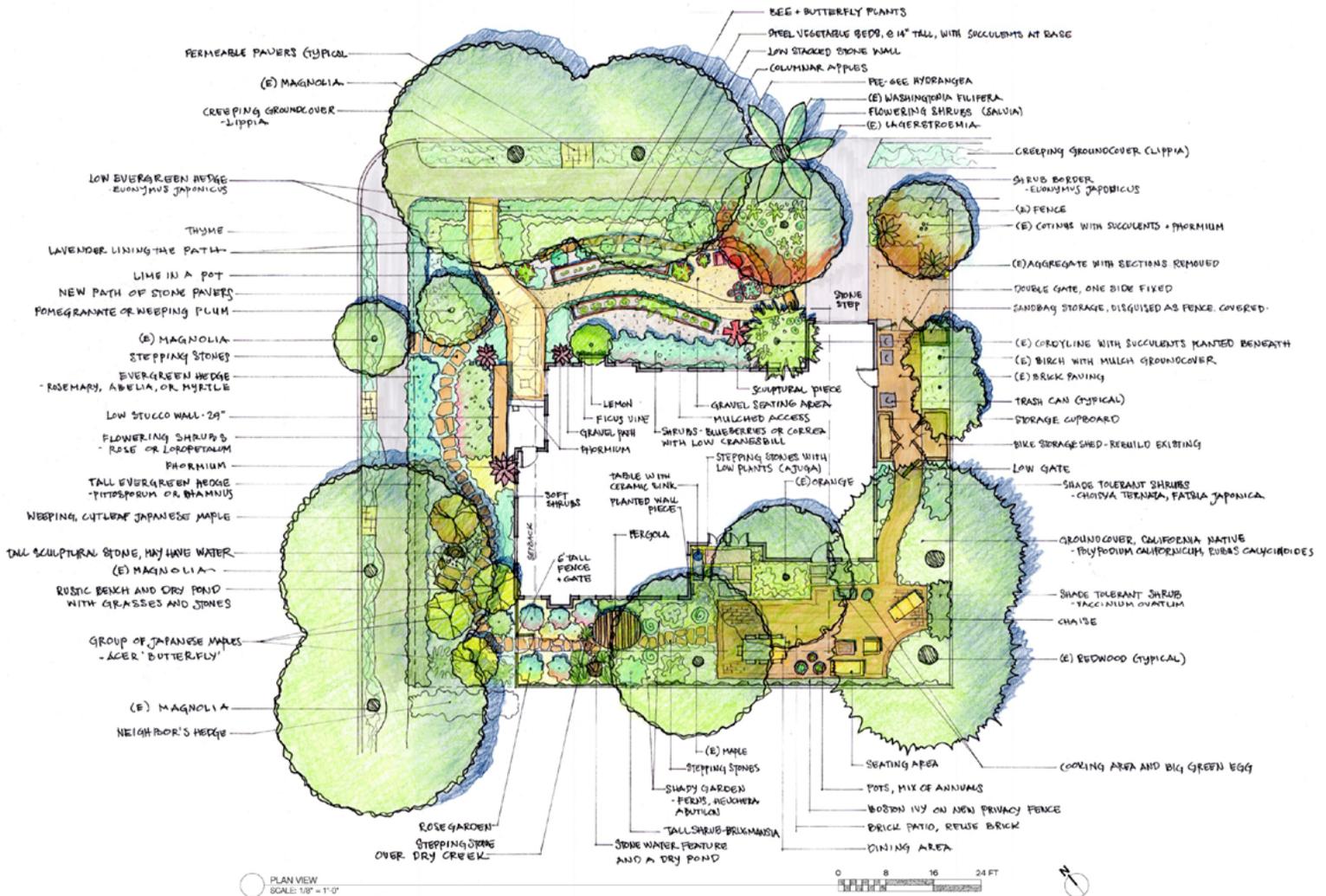
Above: Weathering steel planters, by Drake Welding, host their first crops. **Above right:** A summer bounty of vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers.

Below: Conceptual landscape plan introducing sinuous steel vegetable beds. **Below left:** Dwarf cultivars include 'Blueberry Glaze'® blueberries and 'Northpole' columnar apples.

PLAN & PHOTOGRAPHY
 © VERDANCE LANDSCAPE
 ARCHITECTURE

EDIBLE
 GARDEN

BAY AREA
 MEMBER



EDIBLE GARDEN

BAY AREA
MEMBER



PHOTOGRAPHY © BAY AREA GARDEN DESIGN & KHRISTIAN FRIAS, [FLICKS OF LIGHT](#)



Growing Together: A Family's Harvest- to-Table Journey

DESIGNER: Silvia Gramuglia

COMPANY: Bay Area
Garden Design

LOCATION: Sunnyvale, CA



to enrich soil structure and organic matter. Inefficient lawn sprinklers were replaced with drip irrigation, significantly improving water conservation. Raised beds, constructed from untreated, naturally rot-resistant redwood and lined with gopher wire, were filled with premium organic vegetable soil. Pollinator-friendly plants — such

The primary goal of incorporating edible plants in this project was to create a dedicated urban farm experience, building on years of container gardening that sparked a passion for hands-on cultivation. Equally important was enhancing the space for entertaining family and friends. A kitchen garden was thoughtfully designed to engage the entire family—especially the children—in growing their own food while improving the space for social gatherings. The design maximized vegetable and herb production, revitalized underused areas, and embraced an existing fruit tree as a focal point.

Key strategies included comprehensive sheet mulching and organic soil amendments

as *Nepeta* sp., *Anigozanthos* sp., and *Achillea* sp. — were added for their vibrant colors and ability to attract bees and hummingbirds near the raised beds.

This transformation turned a lifeless lawn into a thriving, productive garden. The family now enjoys a harvest-to-table lifestyle, fostering a deeper connection with their outdoor space. The garden provides a space for everyone: it has become a hub for gathering family and friends and offers a serene “secret garden” retreat with a hammock. In addition, the garden now supports a diverse pollinator population that promotes food production while conserving water, thanks to the removal of the lawn.





EDIBLE GARDEN

Edible gardens are a great way to connect with nature and enjoy fresh, healthy food. They are also a great way to learn about different types of plants and how to grow them. This garden is a great example of an edible garden. It features a variety of plants, including leafy greens, herbs, and fruits. The garden is also a great place to learn about different types of plants and how to grow them.

Planting advice on the fully planted and finished. In the future, consider the following:

- Consider the amount of space you have available.
- Consider the amount of sunlight you have available.
- Consider the amount of water you have available.
- Consider the amount of soil you have available.
- Consider the amount of time you have available.

Through the Park's efforts, we hope to see more people have fun and enjoy the benefits of an edible garden. We are happy to help you get started and provide you with the information you need to get started.



Edible gardens spark conversations about culture, family, and shared food traditions, forging a deeper connection that goes beyond aesthetics.

Edible Elegance: Filoli's Formal and Permanent Gardens Reimagined with Food in Mind

DESIGNER: Jim Salyards & The Garden Route Company
 ORGANIZATION: Filoli Historic House & Garden
 LOCATION: Woodside, CA
 INSTALLATION: Filoli Horticultural Staff & The Garden Route Company



WORDS BY LAUREN COOK & JIM SALYARDS
 PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF FILOLI

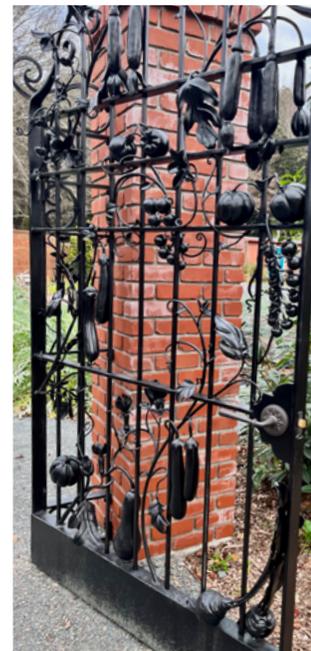
The resurgence of home gardening during COVID-19 highlighted the importance of food security and the desire for deeper connections to nature. At Filoli, then Director of Horticulture Jim Salyards saw an opportunity to integrate this movement into the estate's landscape.

In 2021, Filoli transformed the historic Sunken Garden into an edible display, seamlessly blending beauty and function. The success of this endeavor, along with master planning, led to the establishment of a permanent edible garden, with updates designed and installed by The Garden Route Company. In 2022, for the first time in its 100+ year history, the Vegetable Garden opened to the public.

Salyards's vision for the 2021 Sunken Garden transformation showcased the artistry of edible gardening. Plant choices were selected for longevity, with ephemeral container plantings allowing

for seasonal rotations. Unique selections like celeriac, with its celery-like appearance and low water requirements, demonstrated how aesthetics and practicality coexist. Trellises adorned with climbing beans provided vertical interest while maximizing space. Visitors responded with enthusiasm, engaging with the familiar scents and textures of culinary plants in a formal garden setting.

Building on this success, Filoli opened its historic, year-round edible garden, designed as a permanent display of food-producing plants. Filoli, working with Architectural Resources Group, incorporated striking artistic elements, including custom iron gates entwined with ornamental vines, adding a whimsical yet elegant entryway. Practical improvements, such as replacing steel light posts with wooden columns, enhanced both the garden's aesthetic and visitor safety.



Above left: Edible plants transform the formal Sunken Garden into a sensory delight. **Left:** The interplay of hedging, brick elements, and trellises offers a timeless aesthetic.

(continued on next page)

Photo by Gün Ünsal



The impact of Filoli’s edible gardens extends beyond beauty. “Vegetables are more approachable,” Salyards noted, observing how visitors connected to the gardens through culture and family traditions. The edible landscapes at Filoli demonstrate that food-producing gardens can be as elegant as traditional ornamental spaces, offering a living, evolving tapestry that nourishes in countless ways.

As edible landscapes (re)gain momentum, Filoli stands as a testament to the potential of integrating food into designed spaces—proving that function and elegance can flourish side by side.

Right: Ornate iron gates designed by Toby Sticpewich. Design oversight of the gates and pergola managed by Architectural Resources Group. The plaque honors Carolyn Fulgham Butcher, wife of lead donor Preston Butcher, whose support was instrumental in bringing the vegetable garden to fruition.





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Above: The raised beds of Filoli's vegetable garden provide a structured yet natural canvas: vibrant greens and deep reds contrast beautifully with the warmth of weathered wood and historic brick walls. ■ Jim Salyards surveys the garden, where thoughtful design meets productive abundance. Framed by neatly pruned hedges and trellised vines, the space embodies a balance of structure and natural growth—an inspiring model for edible landscape design.

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DEVIL MOUNTAIN WHOLESALE NURSERY

We grow a wide variety of edible plants and fruit trees for your landscape projects.

Whether working with a small space or a larger property, your clients can enjoy fresh, homegrown produce. Many varieties are well-suited for California landscapes, offering seasonal bounty with minimal effort. With the proper selections, you can design for a continuous harvest throughout the year. Beyond their fruit production, fruit trees add beautiful blossoms in spring and vibrant foliage in fall. They also attract pollinators, supporting a healthy ecosystem.

Berries and grapes are available in 1-gallon to 5-gallon sizes. Stone fruits, persimmons, guavas, and olives come in 15-gallon or 24-inch box sizes. We also offer a wide selection of citrus varieties—please check with your local Devil Mountain to confirm availability.

Explore our [ONLINE PLANT CATALOG](#) for edible plants and more!



Cochise Summer Vacation

In 2022, **Mountain States Wholesale Nursery** found a new home in Cochise, Arizona. The move from Glendale’s intense heat to the cooler temperatures of a semi-desert grassland at 4,300 feet elevation was quite an adjustment — but quickly proved to be a blessing in disguise.



The more moderate climate allows *Leucophyllum zygophyllum* Cimarron® Sage to appear more vibrant than ever, and it is not the only plant enjoying the change. The climate extends our plants' blooming season and enables us to cultivate a broader range of cold-hardy varieties than at our previous location.

In Cochise, “summer vacation” has taken on a new meaning!



We are a wholesale nursery specializing in water-efficient plants.



Urban Tree Farm carries more than just classic landscaping plants! We also offer fruit-producing trees, shrubs, and vines. From apples and oranges to figs and grapes, we can help make your garden work for you and your kitchen.

Raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries thrive in our climate, and we offer multiple varieties of each. You’ll find 15-gallon and 24-inch box fruit trees in our nursery.



Whether you love to make peach cobbler, cherry pies, or pear tarts—we've got the right tree for you here at Urban Tree Farm!

Check the **AVAILABILITY** tab on our website for current stock.



**Chef's Choice®
Culinary Rosemary**

This selection stands out with an enhanced oil content and spicy flavor for those seeking a high-performance rosemary. Its compact, mounding form ensures seamless integration into container and kitchen garden designs.

**'Little Miss Figgy'
Dwarf Fig**

This variety produces medium-sized, sweet, purple fruit and maintains a rounded shrub form, making it suitable for ornamental and productive landscapes. Its low-water requirements ensure reliable performance in diverse environments.

**Takes The Cake®
Blueberry**

This vigorous, upright selection is celebrated for its attractive, large berries and disease—and pest-resistant qualities. Incorporate compatible rabbiteye pollinators to design for optimal fruit yield.



sunsetwesterngardencollection.com



From far left to right: Fruit Peach El Dorado; Fruit Apple Fuji (available espaliered); Citrus Mandarin 'Tango' (seedless tangerine); Fruit Raspberry Heritage; Fruit Blueberry Legacy



Feijoa sellowiana
Pineapple Guava
 Versatile and easy to grow, this evergreen shrub (or small tree) yields both edible flowers and fruit! Fleshy white flowers with red accents in spring give way to tasty guava-like fruit in late fall. It works equally well as a foundation plant, privacy screen, or hedge.

Laurus nobilis
Bay Laurel
 An evergreen shrub (or small tree), Bay Laurel has deep dark green, leathery, and aromatic foliage. It is often used as a culinary herb, whether fresh or dried, to flavor soups, stews, sauces, and more. Water-wise, it will thrive in the Mediterranean climate of California.

Punica granatum 'Wonderful'
Wonderful Pomegranate
 This thorny, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub (or small tree) has glossy green leaves and showy trumpet-shaped, light red flowers that hummingbirds love! Its fruits are large, round red pomegranates with a wonderful, tangy flavor from late summer into fall



Far left: *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow) with a checkerspot butterfly.

Left: *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland Sage) with a swallowtail butterfly.



The Watershed Nursery Cooperative is an employee-owned cooperative growing California Native plants. We have many native plants with edible, medicinal, and traditional cultural uses. We are committed to providing dependable service and quality site-specific gene stock grown using phytosanitary Best Management Practices. The measure of our success extends beyond the high-quality plant material that leaves the nursery to the establishment of diverse, healthy, functioning ecosystems!

Take part in a month of activities to celebrate and protect our state's iconic flora

March 17, 2025, Sacramento, CA – **California Native Plant Month begins on Tuesday, April 1**, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) invites you to stop and smell the monardella.

From fragrant coyote mint to giant chain ferns, California is filled with over 6,700 types of plants, more than any other state in the U.S. **During California Native Plant Month, CNPS will highlight a plant a day as part of small sampling of the state's remarkable flora. In tandem, the conservation organization—now celebrating its 60-year anniversary—will suggest one action per week to help protect California's unique native plants and habitats.**

The state's extraordinarily rich variety of plants and habitats is a globally important example of what scientists call "biodiversity," one word to capture the web of life on the planet—and today that web is in jeopardy. California is in one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, areas that have exceptional concentrations of endemic species that are found nowhere else, as well as elevated risks of extinction. Habitat loss from development, climate change, and invasive species threaten biodiversity as never before, and endemic species are especially at risk. Approximately 66% of endemic species are projected to experience an 80% decrease in the size of their ranges in the next 100 years.

“Living in one of the world's biodiversity hotspots means that our local actions here in California have global impacts.”

Dr. Jun Bando
CNPS Executive Director

Throughout April, local CNPS chapters and partner organizations are offering dozens of opportunities to enjoy and learn about native plants in communities statewide, including plant sales, field trips, garden tours, and educational talks. “Native plants are for everyone,” said Liv O’Keeffe, senior director of public affairs at CNPS. “You can take action by learning what you are seeing on a nature trail, advocating for native plants and places to your leaders, or replacing your lawn with a native plant garden.”

Established by the state legislature in 2023, California Native Plant Month is observed in April in recognition of the state's globally significant native plants. The recent month-long celebration is an expansion of California Native Plant Week, which was established in 2010.

Go to cnps.org/celebrate to learn more and get involved.



Christian Douglas' *The Food Forward Garden* (Artisan, October 2024) is an engaging guide offering a variety of fresh and practical approaches to integrating edible plants into residential landscape design. For professional landscape designers looking to add a productive and sustainable layer to their projects, this book

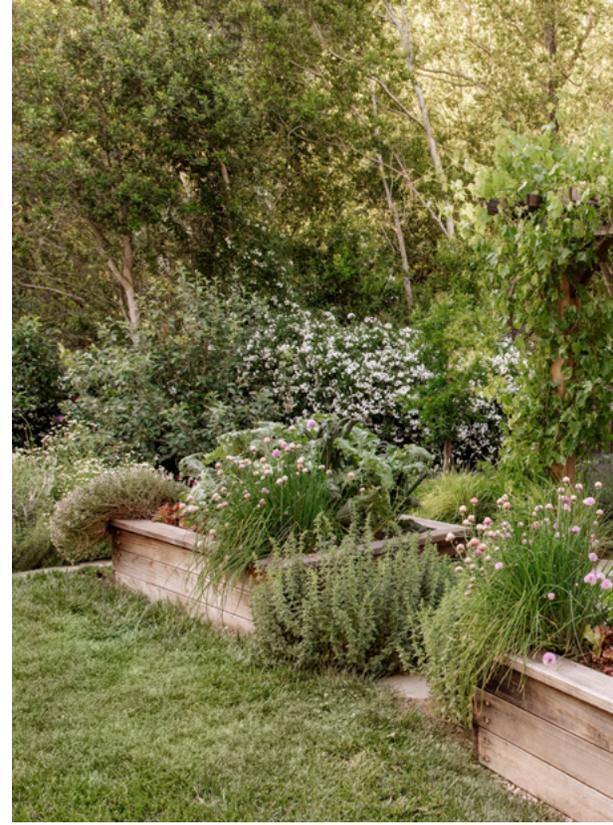
is a valuable resource – full of design ideas, plant suggestions, and real-world tips that can easily be applied to residential and small-scale community projects.

Douglas writes in an inviting, down-to-earth manner that makes the book a pleasure to read while still providing a solid foundation in ecological gardening and permaculture principles. His hands-on experience is clear,

and his passion for connecting people to their food and the land shines through.

What sets this book apart is its ability to bridge the gap between practical gardening advice and thoughtful landscape design – something professionals can appreciate when working with clients who are eager to grow their own food but unsure where to start.

The book covers key topics like soil health, water conservation, pollinator habitat, plant guilds, and companion planting – all essential tools for designing resilient edible landscapes. Douglas also offers suggestions for incorporating native plants, perennials, and lesser-known edibles, encouraging designers to think beyond the typical vegetable garden. His emphasis on biodiversity and low-maintenance systems aligns well with today's focus on regenerative and climate-adaptive design.





For landscape designers, this book can serve both as a source of design inspiration and a client education tool. The lush photos, planting plans, and case studies can help communicate ideas during consultations, and the approachable tone makes it something you could confidently recommend to clients who want

to be more involved in the growing process. It is especially useful for those working on projects where food production is a goal but space, time, or resources are limited.

One of *The Food Forward Garden's* strengths is its holistic view of the landscape as a living system. Douglas encourages designers to consider not just aesthetics and yield but also the social and ecological impacts of their work. From creating habitats for beneficial insects to using locally sourced materials, the book promotes a thoughtful, regenerative approach to landscape design.

While the book is geared toward a broad audience, and some experienced designers may wish for more technical detail on irrigation systems or large-scale planning, its strength lies in its versatility. Whether you're helping a client convert a lawn into a productive garden or planning a community food forest, there are ideas here to spark creativity and support practical implementation.

In short, *The Food Forward Garden* is a friendly, inspiring guide for any landscape designer interested in adding edible elements to their projects. Douglas offers a compelling reminder that edible gardens can be beautiful, functional, and nourishing – for people and the planet.

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SHAPE OUR
FUTURE



Association of
Professional
Landscape
Designers

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



At APLD California, collaboration and community are at the heart of everything we do. This newsletter is created by landscape designers, for landscape designers, and your input makes it truly special. Here's a brief summary of what to expect inside each issue:

Insightful Articles: Discover the latest trends and best practices in landscape design from industry experts.

Upcoming Events: Stay updated on workshops, webinars, and networking opportunities.

Member Spotlights: Get inspired by the creative works and stories of your peers.

Legislative Updates: Learn about new laws and policies impacting our industry.



Your voice matters! Here's how you can get involved and help shape the content of future issues:

Submit Articles: Share your expertise and experiences with our community.

Submit Feedback: Let us know your thoughts on this issue and what topics you'd like to see in the future.

Join Discussions: Engage in our online social channels and [discussion boards](#) to share ideas and collaborate with fellow designers.

Get in touch:

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