

WHAT GOES INTO CREATING AN FOOD & FAMILY YARD?

- » Everything in this yard is designed to benefit pollinators or the family
- » Vegetable or flower gardens in your yard provide food and habitat for pollinators as well as food and enjoyment to the family
- » Nothing goes to waste and every plant has a purpose



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YOU CAN HAVE A HEALTHY YARD

Just keep these three things in mind when planning and planting your garden.

Water: Catch the rain and use it wisely (landscape design and appropriate plants, mulch, rain barrels).

Soil: Think of the ecosystem below your feet; feed and build the soil first (composting, mulch, soil testing).

Diversity: Using a variety of plants and natural elements will create a biologically diverse landscape can help prevent disease and create a sustainable and healthy ecosystem. Planting a diverse garden also provides habitat - food and shelter - for many birds and beneficial insects such as pollinators.

HEALTHY YARDS

FOOD & FAMILY

Healthy Yards can be beautiful and functional. They save water, reduce waste, reduce air pollution, and increase ecological resilience.





WATER MANAGEMENT

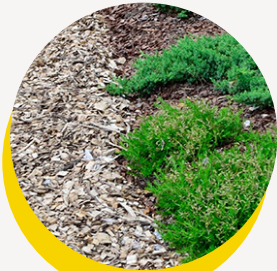
Design and build the landscape so water goes where you want it. Direct runoff to plants, habitat, or storage.

Capture rainwater at every opportunity using rain barrels and totes at every downspout.

MULCH

WOOD MULCH

Reduces water loss, suppresses weeds, moderates soil temperature, and amends soil. Wood mulch can be used around trees and shrubs, flower gardens, and as pathways.



Choose plants that are native to the area and drought tolerant to get the best results.

SOIL

First, test the soil to get baseline knowledge of nutrients and structure. The soil pH will affect what plants will grow well in the area.

Use compost. The breakdown of organic matter adds nutrients back to the soil and helps plants thrive.



WHAT TO PLANT IN AN FOOD & FAMILY YARD?

HEALTHY LAWN NATIVE GRASS MIX

When you mow, leave grass clippings on the lawn to add valuable nutrients to the soil, and help retain moisture to reduce the need for watering.



Thinly spread compost, topsoil and native seed mix over your lawn to feed the soil, deepen roots and make it more drought-tolerant.

Remember, lawn may not be green year round because it will naturally go dormant in the peak of summer. Encouraging deep roots will make it more resilient.

HASKAP BERRY (deciduous shrub)

Height 4-6 feet and spread 5-8 feet. This shrub is extremely winter hardy. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant and requires very little water once established. You must plant two varieties to produce fruit and the berries are ready to pick in the early summer. It is native to North America.



To ensure your plants thrive, be sure to place them where they get the right amount of sunshine or shade to meet their needs.



BLAZING STAR

(flowering herbaceous perennial)
Height 2 feet and spread 1 foot. It requires full sun, grows well in acidic soils, and tolerates dry and moist conditions. The flowers attract pollinators. It is native to North America.



ELIJAH BLUE

(herbaceous evergreen perennial)
8 inches high and 12 inches wide. It does best in full sun to partial shade, prefers average to dry moisture levels and dislikes excessive moisture; not particular as to soil type or pH. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.

ADD A BIRD BATH

Bird baths provide still water as a resource for a variety of pollinators; look for one that is shallow and has a gentle slope, which birds prefer. The bird bath should be cleaned every 5 days to provide fresh water and avoid creating a breeding ground for mosquitos.



ADD A POLLINATOR HOTEL

Use driftwood logs, wood with holes drilled in it, or create a hotel elevated on a stand. Locate it near pollen sources so the insects don't have far to go for food. The location of the hotel (e.g. shade or sun), as well as size of the holes, will influence the types of pollinators that are attracted to it.



BEAKED HAZELNUT

(deciduous shrub)

Height 8 feet and spread 7 feet. It tolerates various soil types and pH, as well as urban pollution. It grows well in various sun/shade conditions and is drought-tolerant. It is self-pollinating and produces hazelnuts ready to pick from early to mid-fall. It is native to North America.

SOUR CHERRY

(deciduous tree or shrub)

It comes in a variety of sizes. It tolerates various soil types and pH, as well as urban pollution. It requires full sun and needs average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is self-pollinating and attracts pollinators. Cherries are ready to pick in mid-summer. It will grow well here, but it is not native to North America.

