



Don't FALL Into Disrepair!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

The first day of fall is tomorrow. There's a chill in the morning! Even though it can be 90° in the afternoon, the temperature changes quickly. Winter is coming!

Are your well pipes and pump house insulated? Did you put the temperature controlled outlet and heat lamp in your pump house? Did your well have it's annual maintenance check this year? Is there bacteria in your water? Iron stains, hard water spots?

I don't know about you, but I sure can procrastinate on these things. But if you wait too long, you won't be able to get even a DRIP when you turn on the faucet!

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Here are some of the best plants to plant in the Applegate Valley

BY DANA LEE

Edible landscapes have been steadily gaining popularity over the last couple of decades. Since the late 1990s, the international movement, Food Not Lawns, which began in Oregon, has brought much attention to the importance of food security. This group advocates for, and actively replaces, unsustainable, perpetually green lawns and barren urban areas with edible plants, which have fed many people around the world. The concept is not new, but it is certainly relevant. Over the last 20 or so years, Food Not Lawns has planted the seeds of self-reliance in many of our minds.

Sustainability, food security, self-reliance, and permaculture are becoming more desired. We may need to adopt these practices out of necessity, especially as food and fuel prices rise and after experiencing the vulnerabilities of our supply chains during the pandemic. Incorporating edible plants into our landscapes helps us reduce our food costs, while conveniently improving the nutrition and taste of what we eat. Edible landscapes also blend aesthetics with function, are easier on our water sources, and, while they produce food for us, also supply food for beneficial pollinators.

Many of us grow seasonal crops of annual plants. Why not also, rather easily, add perennials to the mix and depend on their abundance year after year? In most circumstances, for each ornamental landscape desire, there is an edible plant to fulfill it.

Many people ask what they should plant in their edible landscapes. It is not a science. Just plant what you like to eat, what you are curious about eating, what you have the space for, and what you think will grow well where you would like to plant something. An edible landscape is just like any other: it is a work in progress, but you will also gain the satisfaction of tasty, convenient, nutritious foods along with the many other benefits that accompany gardening these plants.

Here are some of the plants we recommend for starting, or expanding, your edible landscapes in the Applegate Valley:

Trees

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in" states a beautiful and



A wide variety of plants are available at Forestfarm, including *Gaultheria procumbens* "Cherry Berries" wintergreen. Photo: Forestfarm.

valid sentiment. Planting trees is often a considerate gesture, and many food-producing trees will produce quickly.

Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), strawberry tree (*Arbutus* 'Marina', Chinese Toon (*Toona sinensis*), paw-paw (*Asimina triloba*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), fruiting quince (*Cydonia oblonga* 'Pineapple'), American beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), fig (*Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'), walnut (*Juglans nigra*), olive (*Olea europaea* 'Mission), sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*), two-needle pinion (*Pinus edulis*), Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*), almond (*Prunus dulcis* All In One), California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*), silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*), and over 40 varieties of apples, crabapples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums, and lemons.

Shrubs

Shrubs are great for a big impact in small spaces. Many edible shrubs are also suitable for planting in containers, a convenient solution for patio gardens and for those of us in rentals who would like to move our plants with us.

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* 'Wonderful'), rosemary (*Rosmarinus*

officinalis 'Majorca Pink'), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Viking'), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* 'Cameo'), silverberry (*Elaeagnus* 'Olive Martini'), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens* 'Cherry Berries'), lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia* 'Lavance Deep Purple'), Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), tomato rose (*Rosa rugosa*).

Vines

Planting vines is another effective way to provide shade, beauty, and charming and timely screens:

Chocolate vine (*Akebia pentaphylla*), hardy kiwis (*Actinidia arguta* 'Geneva' and 'Jumbo'), and 15 different varieties of grapes.

Berries

Finally, we have dedicated a category to some berry-producing plants. Berries grow in many forms and are favored for many reasons. The berries suggested below may be preserved or eaten fresh. They may be used for native habitat restoration, medicines, container gardens, or simply because they are delicious, thornless, and noninvasive.

Blueberries, mulberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, thornless blackberries, lingonberries, thimbleberries, salmonberries, elderberries, buffaloberries, goji berries, whortleberries, and huckleberries

You can find all of these edible plants, and many more (nearly 5,000 varieties!), at our nonprofit Forestfarm Nursery. We are located on the beautiful grounds of Pacifica at 14643 Water Gap Road, Williams. Open 9 am - 2 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, call 541-846-7269 or go to our website at forestfarm.com.

Happy Planting!

Dana Lee

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**Next deadline:
November 1**