

Chart Key



Part Shade / Part Sun



Full Sun



Low water needs / high drought tolerance



Medium water needs/ average drought tolerance

* Plant sizes are based on averages and may vary drastically by cultivar and growing conditions

Edible landscaping can provide one with the opportunity to produce their own food using sustainable agricultural practices that conserve water, protect water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and reduce the use of chemical inputs.

Pollinators & Pesticides

Flowering plants provide nectar and pollen for honey bees and native pollinators that include many species of bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies, and birds. By adding pollinator plants to your edible landscape, your plants will bear more fruit, pest and disease pressure will be reduced, and you'll provide critical habitat for pollinators in peril. Identify an insect before you treat, avoid using chemical pesticides and spot treat with the least toxic methods first such as with neem oil or horticultural soaps. Always follow label instructions.

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County Factsheet # MCH-2104
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Florida-Friendly Foodscaping



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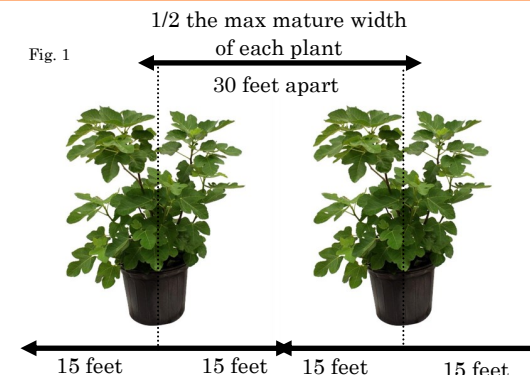
The #1 Principle of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is Right Plant, Right Place. Plants suited for the site conditions will need less care and maintenance to be attractive and productive. Your edible ornamental landscape can conserve water, protect water quality, and be attractive and productive by selecting the right edible and non-edible plants for your landscape conditions.

Light & Temperature

- Choose varieties suitable for your cold hardiness zone. Marion County is in zone 9A.
- Select low-chill varieties (ex. blueberries)
- Plant less cold-hardy plants on the south or south-west side of your property, near pavement or large trees
- Most edibles do best in full sun
- Keep in mind changes in light conditions when plants mature

Soil & Spacing

- Soil pH and nutrients – Don't Guess, Get a Soil Test! Having the pH correct is critical for edible plants
- Spacing – know the mature size of a plant before you plant it. Good spacing allows for better air flow and sunlight = fewer pests, diseases & better production. Give vines plenty of space to avoid smothering.
- Measure spacing from the center of one plant to the center of the next (Figure 1)
- Maintain shrubs about 3 feet from buildings and at least 15 feet of distance for



Design Considerations

- Intermix evergreen with deciduous plants: add winter annuals or evergreen plants that don't lose their leaves with deciduous plants to avoid bare areas in winter.
- Seasonality: have a diversity of plants that produce blooms and/or fruit in different seasons for year-long interest, color and fruit production
- Select pest and disease resistant varieties
- If you live in an HOA, always get HOA approval first!





















Plant Establishment

Once a plant can survive on its own without irrigation, it is established. Florida-friendly plants typically require little to no irrigation once established but water regularly until then.

The larger the plant the longer it will take to get established: trees = 2 years, shrubs = 1 year, smaller plants = 3—6 months

Apply 2-3 inches of mulch around plant to suppress weeds and maintain moisture. Micro-irrigation is ideal for water conservation.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Native	Edible	Harvest Time	Light	Water Needs	*Height x Width	Climate Zone	Notes
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	Yes	Fruit	Spring			5' x 3'	7-9	Rabbiteye blueberries are preferred for North-Central FL. Select low-chill cultivars. Prefer acidic soils. Need two different cultivars of the same type to bear fruit.
Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	No	Fruit	Spring			15' x 20'	8-10	Well-adapted to a range of conditions. Consistently produces fruit once mature with no fertilizer. Fruit turn orange and soft when ripe. Evergreen, medium-sized shade tree.
Mulberry	<i>Morus spp.</i>	Some	Fruit	Spring	 		30' x 30'	7-10	<i>Morus rubra</i> is native, grows 40'+. Black mulberry grow smaller and bushier. Dwarf ‘Everbearing’ grow up to 15’. Deciduous, fast growing. Red or black are recommended.
Muscadine grape	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	Yes	Fruit	Summer—Fall			5' x 15'	7-10	Deciduous vine. Need self-fertile or compatible varieties for pollination. Fruit have seeds and may be bronze (scuppernongs), black or purple. Very aggressive growth.
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros spp.</i>	Some	Fruit	Fall—Winter	 	 	20' x 15'	4B-9B	Many Japanese persimmon cultivars, sizes vary. Small-med deciduous tree. Recommend non-astringent variety. Native common persimmon best left for wildlife.
Pineapple Guava	<i>Acca (Feijoa) sellowiana</i>	No	Flower/ Fruit	Spring—Summer			10' x 15'	8A-11	Edible red & white flower petals in spring, taste like marshmallow. ~2” green oval-shaped fruit fall off when ripe, mild sweet taste. Evergreen hedge or small tree.
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	No	Leaves	Any time			4' x 5'	8-11	Small evergreen shrub. Leaves are used as an herb either fresh or dried. Flowers are highly attractive to pollinators. Can be pruned to shape and potted.
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yes	Leaves	Any time	 		15' x 10'	7A-9B	Female plants produce small, red, inedible berries consumed readily by birds. Leaves contain caffeine and are used to make tea. Dwarf shrub cultivars readily available.