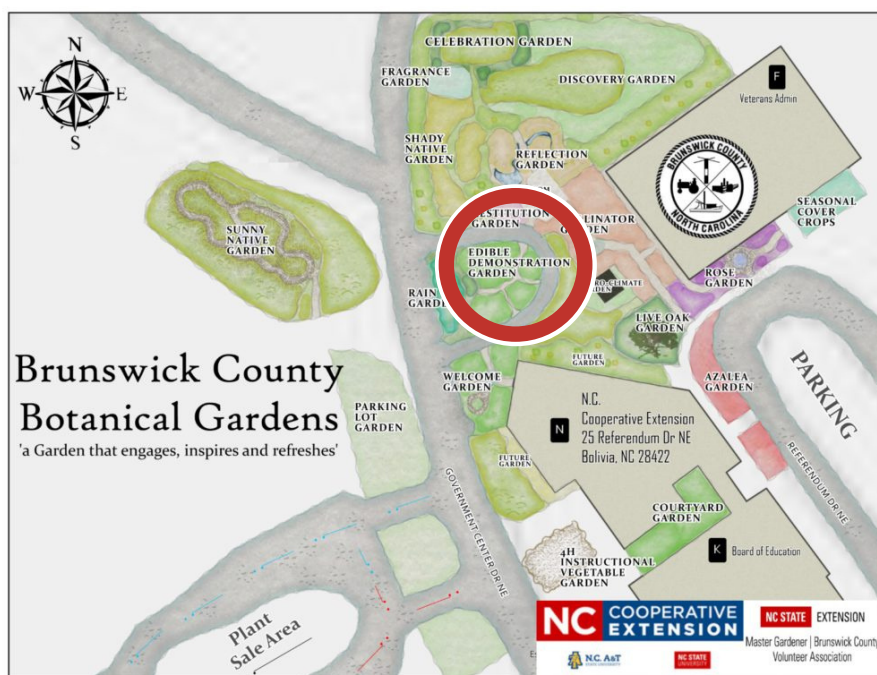


The Edible Garden

These gardens are maintained by
Brunswick County Extension Master
GardenerSM Volunteers



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Edible Landscape Demonstration Garden (ELDG) in the Botanical Garden is twofold. First, it provides ongoing educational opportunities for visitors to see the potential for growing edible plants in Coastal North Carolina throughout the year and to think about growing edibles in new and exciting ways. Second, it offers Master Gardeners hands-on experience in designing and implementing ELDG areas that can be replicated in home landscape settings.

The garden includes annual vegetables, perennial vegetables, annual edible flowers, perennial edible flowers and plants that can be used for medicinal purposes. The garden reflects realistic conditions that a home gardener can expect to encounter as the plants are interspersed among trees and shrubs.

HARDSCAPE

Hardscape has been introduced in the form of additional pathways to allow for better viewing and maintenance. Additionally, a bench/trellis was built to support climbing Edibles as well as a place to sit and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding garden.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Insecticides and pesticides are not used unless the issues cannot be controlled by natural methods. Marigolds, Cosmos as well as Gaillardia and a variety of Mustards are planted to provide natural insect repellents. Tat Soi (an Oriental green) will be planted not only as an edible but as a “trap crop” for insects to feed upon, discouraging insects to not eat other more desired leafy edibles.



The Edible Garden

OUR PLANTS

Most plants are propagated via harvesting seeds or planting new seeds. We continually change some crops depending on the success or failure of some edibles throughout the year. Since there are several areas that are quite shady, appropriate selection of shade bearing plants is necessary.

LEARN FROM OUR LABELS

As you walk through the edibles garden, be sure to note the plant identification labels which also show the use of that plant. Many plants have more than one way of being used. Our labels don't have enough space to list everything.

For example, Fennel is a versatile plant. The very fine leaves can be food for flavor. The Fennel bulbs can be sliced and added to many types of recipes to include stir fry.

Allow the Fennel plant to flower so that once the flowers have faded, the seed is inside the flower. Harvest the seeds and add them to many recipes. Fennel is featured in most Mediterranean cuisine. Fennel also has many medicinal uses as well. This just one example of a multi-purpose plant.



EDIBLES YEAR ROUND

We plant year around. In the winter, the cool season crops such as Kale, Broccoli, Spinach, Carrot, Lettuce and Cabbage survive.

We overlap the winter crops with the warm season crops such as Eggplant, Okra, Peppers, Tomatoes and Sweet Potatoes. When the two seasons overlap, we often have over 100 different types of plants planted with many varieties of each type. In the Spring, we have several varieties of Tomatoes planted with varieties of Lettuce. In the high season, we could have over 1000 plants in the ground.



Additionally, we have over 20 different kinds of perennials (plants that are hardy and return each year) such as Fennel, Sage, Stevia and Turmeric that return each year.

Vegetable gardening can be very rewarding not only for the bounty that is yielded, but for the color and variety of plants that is introduced into the landscape. Make a list of some of these plants and do your research and have fun with edible/medicinal plants.