

**Plant Enhancement Activity - PLT18 – Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes**



**Enhancement Description**

This enhancement is for the enhancing of windbreaks, alley cropping, silvopasture, or riparian forest buffer systems with trees and shrubs that produce edible products for human or wildlife consumption.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland, Pastureland

**Benefits**

An edible landscape is special in that it is planted with trees and shrubs that produce foods that we can eat/sell or that are beneficial

for wildlife. Trees and shrubs can be used to provide shade, to improve microenvironments or to protect crops, or to mitigate challenging environmental issues. In an edible landscape they provide more than just a protective structure, they become sources of food that produce home grown and nutritious fruits and nuts, increase household food security, and create sites that provide critical habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

**Conditions Where Enhancement Applies**

This enhancement applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.

**Criteria**

1. Follow appropriate standard for basic agroforestry practice design.
2. Plant tree, shrub and bramble species that produce food and/or culinary items to create an edible landscape. Lists of suitable woody plants will be available at your local NRCS field office.
3. Maximize planting space by creating vertical structure with varying plant heights and plant sizes.
4. Use all of the following methods to improve edible food production:
  - a. Add at least one edible food producing row to existing agroforestry practices or incorporate at least one edible food producing row into new planting designs.
  - b. Adding planting masses in scattered clusters is encouraged.
  - c. Plant a variety of tree, shrub and bramble species (3 or more; use native species whenever possible) with varying flowering times to favor pollinator species and to add a longer harvest time frame. Choosing several fruit bearing cultivars can provide an extended period of seasonal production.



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- d. Minimize herbicide use. Use spot weed treatments and avoid spraying when flowers are present.

### **Adoption Requirements**

This enhancement is considered adopted when each selected acre has been planted to the desired tree, shrub and bramble species that produce food or culinary item.

### **Documentation requirements**

1. List of edible food producing trees, shrubs and brambles.
2. Brief written description of the activities (criteria) completed with dates of application and receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
3. Acreage of the enhancement activity.
4. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of landscape layout and placement.

### **References**

Dana, M.N. 2001. Fruits and Nuts for Edible Landscaping. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Landscape Horticulture, HO-190-W. <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-190.pdf>

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USDA-NAC. 2008. Working Trees for Agriculture. USDA National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, NE. <http://www.unl.edu/nac/workingtrees/wta.pdf>

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