

Veggie Five-O: How to Avoid Jail Time While Planting Vegetables in Your Front Yard

Written by Patricia Larenas

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Landscape with Herbs

I'm a big fan of growing herbs. If you want to feel like a pampered foodie, grow some choice aromatic and flavorful herbs in your garden. Cooking with fresh herbs is a great revelation if you've only previously used dried. Some of our favorites are: French tarragon, rosemary, thyme (including lemon thyme), basil, cilantro, sage, dill and oregano. Lemon verbena, chamomile, lemon balm and mint are wonderful for herbal teas and don't forget pineapple sage with its abundant flowers.

I could go on, as fresh herbs are mostly easy to grow and attractive, with pretty flowers and amazing fragrances. Bees, hummingbirds and some butterflies love them too, so you'll be providing much-appreciated food for wildlife.

Leverage Companion Planting

Besides growing vegetables in several raised beds in our front yard, we also have an herb garden that includes edible flowers and native plants. Many herbs are reputedly good companion plants to vegetables. They provide flowers that attract pollinators, they discourage insect pests, and they excrete substances through their root systems that benefit certain vegetables and fruits.

According to the research done at the Ecology Action test garden in Willits, California, some herbs and flowers are especially beneficial to spread throughout the vegetable garden, including borage, basil, calendula, tarragon and marigolds.

Leading by Example

It is both disturbing and extremely sad that growing food plants in your front yard garden is considered a misdemeanor in some cities. But I believe that there is value to leading by example (if you can avoid criminal charges), and working toward changing the aesthetic and

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