

Item No. 25

Supplemental Material

For City of Sacramento

City Council
Housing Authority
Redevelopment Agency
Economic Development Commission
Sacramento City Financing Authority

Agenda Packet

Submitted: March 30, 2007

For the Meeting of: April 3, 2007

- Additional Material
- Revised Material

Subject: Landscaping Requirements in Required Setback Areas for Single-Family and Two-Family Residential Uses (M06-052)

Contact Information: Joy Patterson, Principal Planner, (916) 808-5607; Ron O'Connor, Chief of Code Enforcement (916) 808-8183, Development Services Department.

Please include this supplemental material in your agenda packet. This material will also be published to the City's Intranet. For additional information, contact the City Clerk Department at Historic City Hall, 915 I Street, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604 B (916) 808-7200.

Rosalind Creasy
Los Altos, CA 94022

February 21, 2007

Dear Sacramento Council Members,

My best-selling book *Edible Landscaping* was published in 1982 and since then I have watched the art of landscaping change dramatically. Today many of us look for a sustainable style of gardening. The stereotypical-lawn, a few shrubs, and a tree or two wastes water, nitrogen runs off and pollutes our water, and the machines to keep it up pollute the air. For me edibles in the landscape fit into a more sustainable model.

Last week while I was researching my new edition of *Edible Landscaping* I found much information on lawns, mostly from the EPA, and they might help make my point.

LAWNS - DID YOU KNOW?

- Lawns cover 30 million acres in the U. S—a total area the size of New England
- 70 million pounds of chemicals are spread on American lawns each year
- According to U. S. Fish and Wildlife, the average lawn owner uses ten times the chemicals per acre that farmers use on crops
- Leaf blowers and mowers pollute the average yard with more emissions than if an automobile had been driven 200 plus miles
- American lawns generally require one inch of water a week; a 25- by 40-foot (1000 square feet) lawn uses 625 gallons of water weekly for at least 10,000 gallons of water each summer (This figure is a national average, I'm sure home owners in Sacramento's long, hot, dry climate use much more.)

In contrast, John Jeavons, of Common Ground in Willits, CA obtained government estimates for water use in commercial agriculture and compared those figures with his own statistics. He estimates that a pound of lettuce grown in his Santa Clara County plot used 1/4 to 1/8 as much water as a similar pound of lettuce grown by the average farmer. So in this case, a vegetable, while probably using a little more water than a lawn, has actually saved total water use; as well as being a much better use of the soil.

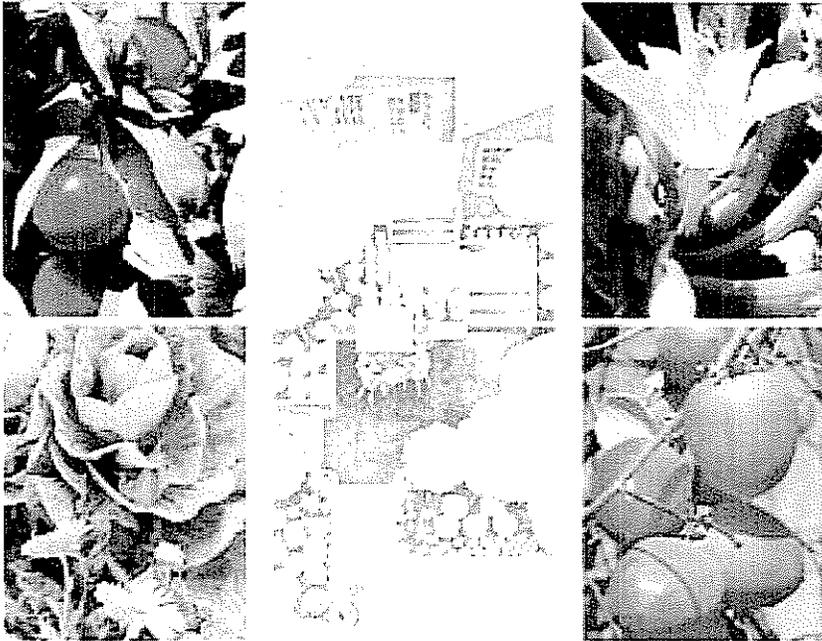
The big argument most homeowners have with a front yard vegetable garden is that a weedy yard with mildewed zucchinis and recycled bleach bottles can become an eyesore. As can a weedy lawn with mildewed roses. To me, the issue is not which category of plants are used but rather; is the yard pleasant to look at and not a public nuisance? I can send hundreds of photos of beautiful vegetable gardens if you wish.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Creasy

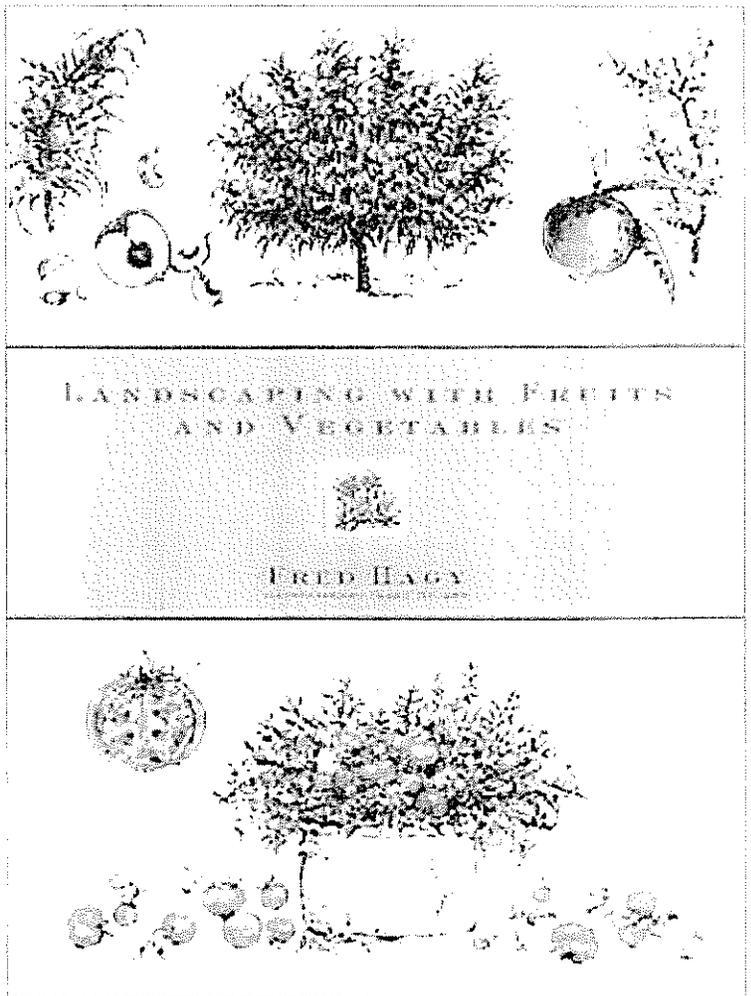
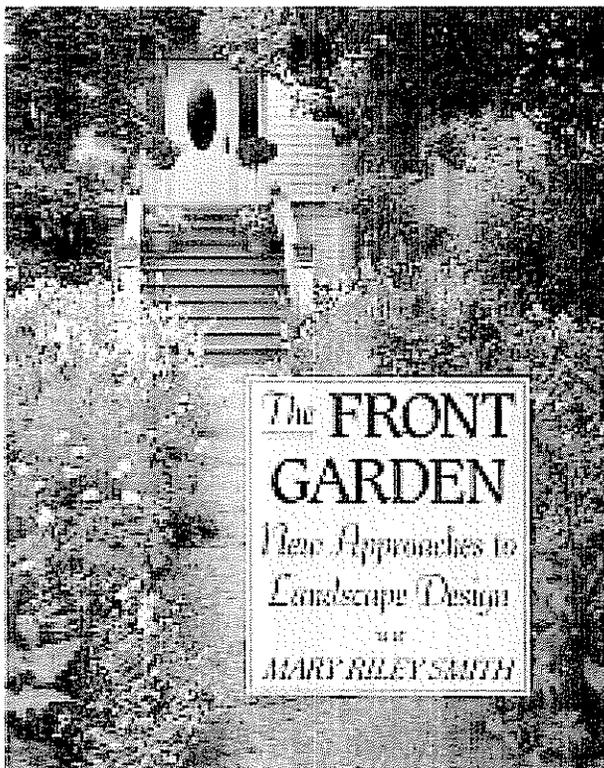
The complete book of
EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

Examples of:
 Edible Landscaping
 Books and Front Yard
 Gardening Books



home landscaping with food-bearing plants
 and resource-saving techniques

ROSALIND CREASY
 Edible Landscaping



January 9, 2007

City of Sacramento Planning Commission Members
Historic City Hall
915 I Street, 2nd Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: M06-052 - Zoning Code Amendment Relating To Landscaping Requirements

Dear Planning Commission Members:

The Sacramento Hunger Coalition is committed to creating sustainable access to affordable nutritious, and culturally appropriate food for everyone.

Hunger and food insecurity place daily burdens on many residents of the city of Sacramento due to many reasons, including a lack of access to affordable and nutritious foods. As a result, both health and quality of life are greatly compromised.

In the spring of 2004 the Sacramento Hunger Coalition in collaboration with Mercy Housing, Kennedy Estates residents and staff, initiated the Edible Landscape project at the Kennedy Estates housing complex. Edible landscaping, like front yard gardening creates a renewable source of nutritious affordable food. Over the course of this project we found that due to the immediate access and availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, knowledge and consumption of fresh produce has increased by residents, thus helping to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Because front yard gardening also provides immediate access to fresh fruits and vegetables, it stands to have the same impact.

We hope that you find this information helpful in considering the revision of front yard landscape code 17.68.010. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you,

Melissa Ortiz-Gray
Program Manager