



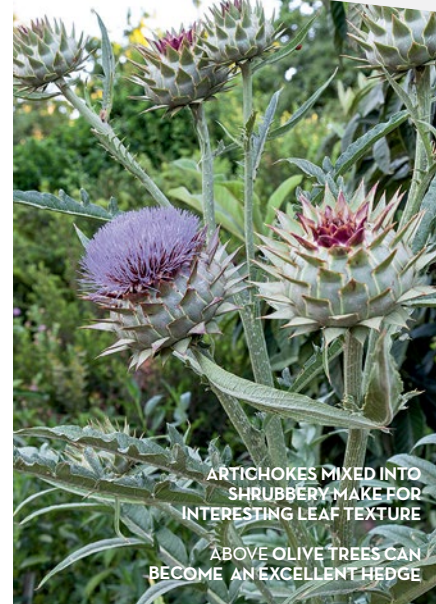
# Eat Your Greens

Franchesca Watson's no-fuss approach to getting food from your garden

When incorporating food plants into your garden, you don't actually have to make a special section or designated vegetable patch. Combining fruit, vegetables and herbaceous plants with other varieties is easy, cost-effective and aesthetically pleasing. Here are my favourite – and simplest – ways to achieve this.

- Use parsley, strawberries or chives as pretty border plants.
- A creeping thyme such as Bressingham makes a great groundcover between paving stones.
- Plant tall beauties such as fennel, dill and broad beans at your borders to give wonderful textures at height.
- Make your creepers productive: plant granadillas, kiwi fruit and table grapes over your pergola.
- Cover your fences in thorny berries such as blackberries and raspberries. They make a delicious added layer of security!
- Make pyramids of cane (or more formal metal ones) and send your beans and peas shooting up them.

- Instead of topiary in your pots, plant citrus trees and trim them into shape.
- Bay trees also clip well, if you would like topiary pyramids or shapes.
- Mix rhubarb, artichokes and zucchini into your shrubberies for beautiful leaf texture.
- Onions and leeks mixed with your garden plants will bring gorgeous orb-shaped flowers into the mix.
- Plant avenues of fruit trees – mango, litchi and avocado in more subtropical areas, and sweet chestnut, persimmon, loquat, walnut, mulberry or deciduous fruit in areas with colder winters.
- Olives make a great hedge if you plant them small. Choose those that bush out from the base.
- Pineapples and bananas will add an immediate tropical look.
- Beetroot, cabbage (particularly savoy types), lettuce and spinach all have great leaves and will add interest to your plantings.
- Figs are absolutely marvellous as smallish shade trees, or trained onto espalier garden dividers.



ARTICHOQUES MIXED INTO SHRUBBERY MAKE FOR INTERESTING LEAF TEXTURE  
ABOVE OLIVE TREES CAN BECOME AN EXCELLENT HEDGE



COVER YOUR FENCES IN BERRIES  
RIGHT FRUIT TREES SERVE AS A DELICIOUS FOCAL POINT



- Jerusalem artichokes flower like gorgeous sunflowers on tall, leggy stems and can grow as tall as a human.
  - Flax, or linseed, is the most beautiful vertical, textured, annual plant and very useful – harvest those seeds.
  - Tomatoes, gooseberries and aubergines are all crops that can be mixed in with other plants.
  - Guava and pomegranate trees provide personality and can be used as focal points.
  - Rosemary plants serve well as hedges if you keep them well-trimmed. The prostrate rosemary is wonderful as an arching groundcover.
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