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biodiversity • conservation • lawn care  
maintenance • meadows • rain gardens  
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soil • trees • urban landscaping  
water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

## June 2012

One of my favorite photos shows my 18-month-old daughter, cheeks sun-flushed, holding a pea pod in one hand. Her other hand extends toward the camera with a pea pinched between her fingers, seconds before popping the fresh-picked pea into her mouth. Maybe it's the labor required, but no matter your age, food tastes sweeter and somehow just better when plucked from a pot or garden by the backdoor. ELA's June Newsletter takes a look at some of the different ways people are using edible plants. From veggies for soup to trees for nuts, I hope you'll dig in and be inspired to nurture more edibles in your own landscape. MS, Editor



### **Edibles in the Landscape** with contributions from Natalie deNormandie, Joann Sekreta Godoy, Adam Kindl, and Larry Simpson

A far cry from the lone tomato plant wedged in among geraniums in the backyard, edibles are now found front and center stage in many residential landscapes. Property owners are more aware of the beauty and delicious benefits of an edible landscape, and some are experimenting with the addition of a variety of edible trees, shrubs, and perennials. Four ELA members from different parts of the country have been incorporating edibles in landscapes for a number of years. Learn how each approaches edibles in landscape design. [Read the full article](#)

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### **First Year's Harvest from Wellesley's Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden** by Dave Jacke and Keith Zaltzberg

On April 2nd, 2011, a team of perplexed students, gardeners, and community members gathered with shovels and rakes in hand at the base of Wellesley College's observatory telescopes pondering the forest of purple, orange, and green stakes poking up from a snow-covered meadow. Mother Nature pulled an April Fools prank of dumping 3" of snow on the site of the Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden (EETG) for the first morning of our weekend-long implementation workshop. This did not chill the spirits of those who had come to help Kristina Jones, director of the College's Botanic Gardens, and our design team, as we began planting this experiment in applied ecology. [Read the full article](#) →



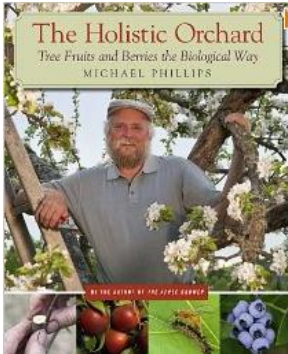
### **It's Not a Fairytale: Seattle to Build Nation's First Food Forest** by Clare Leschin-Hoar

This article was first published on February 21, 2012 and is reprinted with permission of TakePart, Beverly Hills, CA. Forget meadows. The city's new park will be filled with edible plants, and everything from pears to herbs will be free for the taking. [Read the full article](#) →

## Thinking about Nut Trees by Tricia Diggins

Nut trees, more than any other aspect of landscaping, make me think of the old proverb "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now." So, plan to plant a nut tree this fall or next spring. If you for some reason cannot plant one, find one to protect because mature nut trees seem to be getting rarer. Yes, there is a lot to learn about nut trees but you can learn it after the tree is in the ground and growing.

[Read the full article →](#)



## Book Review: The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way

Interest seems to be on the rise in all things local and sustainable. The outstanding Vermont-based publisher, Chelsea Green, reflects-and, perhaps, feeds-this trend with many excellent titles on building, sustainable energy, food, and other subjects germane to an emerging future more socially egalitarian, less dependent on fossil fuels, and more locally rooted. Local food production and marketing tends to be at the forefront of this movement, so it makes perfect sense that The Holistic Orchard is among their recent offerings.

[Read the full article →](#)

## Soil Biology Basics: Part II by Joe Magazzi, MS

[Soil Biology Basics: Part I](#) introduced readers to some basic information on soil biology regarding all of the benefits plants, trees, and turf receive from building and maintaining healthy soil "life" - including providing and cycling carbon, retention and delivery of nutrients and water, healthier and better growth, and natural disease protection and resistance. In Part II, I follow that up with more practical information on how you can build, apply, and maintain beneficial biology and use these practices to reduce other inputs while increasing the quality and health of plants, trees, and turf.

[Read the full article →](#)



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## June Gleanings

### ELA's Annual Meeting - July 24th

Are you an ELA member? ELA's Annual Meeting will be held on July 24th at 1:30 pm at the Garden in the Woods in Framingham, MA. After a brief business meeting and review of the past year initiatives, there will be an exploratory discussion to consider an ELA Certification program. ELA is only as strong as its active members. Join the discussion as ELA sets priorities and moves into its 21st year. For more information, [Email ELA](#).

### Continue the Permaculture Debate

Ben Falk's keynote at the 2012 ELA Conference ignited a discussion about the benefits of and concerns about Permaculture as an approach to land management. Where do you stand on the Permaculture debate? [Join the discussion on LinkedIn](#)

**View Boston from a different perspective** - its green spaces. New England Landscape Design & History Association has introduced a self-guided walking tour of the many parks, small and large, found in Boston's South End. You can download a map of the 2-mile circuit route.

**Rehabilitation for Stream Stability & Improved Stream and Riparian Functions**; New England College, Henniker, NH; June 18-22. Contact Marty Curran - 978-318-8301 or [Martin.J.Curran@usace.army.mil](mailto:Martin.J.Curran@usace.army.mil).

**The Garden Faire**; Scotts Valley's Sky Park, Scotts Valley, CA; June 23, 9am-5pm.

**Perennial Plant Symposium**; Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA; July 4-10.

**Wetland Restoration Training**; British Columbia Wildlife Federation Wetlands Institute; July 8-15.

**Great Ideas Summer Conference & Trade Show**; Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA; July 26.

**University of Rhode Island Outreach Center** and Roger Williams Park Botanical Center offer a series of free summer workshops at Roger Williams Park, RI, including Composting 101, Building Nectaries, and Maintaining Garden Tools.

Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center has some great new resources, including a guide titled Wild Pollinators of Eastern Apple Orchards and How to Conserve Them. Permaculture Certificate Course; Northampton, MA; 6 weekend sessions September - December.

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A Yard & A Half Landscaping is a design, build & maintain company that is in business to enrich the lives of our customers, employees and community. As such, we have a strong commitment to organic and sustainable approaches.



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We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter.

We welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net).

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor