

## Why grow food in your front yard?

Planting and growing edible plants in your front yard is becoming more and more popular as a creative use of urban space. This toolkit was created to share the benefits of an edible front yard garden and to provide suggestions (and some rules) that will hopefully inspire you to start an edible garden in your front yard.



## For more information, visit:

Niagara Region's 'Project Share' Gardening Guide  
[www.projectshare.ca/pdfs/Garden%20Manual.pdf](http://www.projectshare.ca/pdfs/Garden%20Manual.pdf)

Climate Zones and Planting Dates  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/climzoneveg.htm>

City of St. Catharines Report on 'Use of Alternate Vegetation on Boulevards and Circles'  
<https://stcatharines.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentDisplay.aspx?id=14984>

City of St. Catharines Water Conservation Tips and Subsidized Rain Barrels  
<http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/livein/WaterConservation.asp>

Do you have the best edible front yard garden on the block? Does your neighbour? Have you spotted a great garden across town?

Nominate an outstanding edible front yard garden for the Edible Landscape Trillium Award.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/livein/Trillium-Awards.asp>



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# The Edible Front Yard

~Gardening Toolkit~

## Tips for complying with the City's Bylaws

### Planting on Private Property (*recommended*)

The City of St. Catharines zoning by-laws permit vegetable plots in front yard gardens. The City's fencing by-law limits the maximum height of plant clusters to 1 metre, within 3 metres of the street line, or within a sight triangle so choose shorter plant materials near streets and driveways.

### Planting on Circles (*not recommended*)

Circles are complicated by the fact that there are multiple adjacent owners. Grass cutting on circles is the responsibility of adjacent residents who often have different views on how a circle should be used and maintained. In many neighbourhoods, they are used for snow storage during winter, and may contain higher amounts of salt and other road pollutants than normal. As such, planting food gardens is not recommended.

### Planting on Boulevards (*permitted, within guidelines*)

There is no formal policy or by-law which allows or prohibits the planting of gardens on boulevards in St. Catharines. However, if you plant on a boulevard, the vegetation cannot:

- Exceed a height of 30 cm
- Impede sight lines for road and sidewalk users
- Restrict access to fire hydrants, post office boxes, other installations
- Overflow onto the street, sidewalk or neighbouring property
- Cause a trip hazard
- Contain thorns, burrs or other protruding sharp material
- Impair drainage
- Inhibit snow removal operations

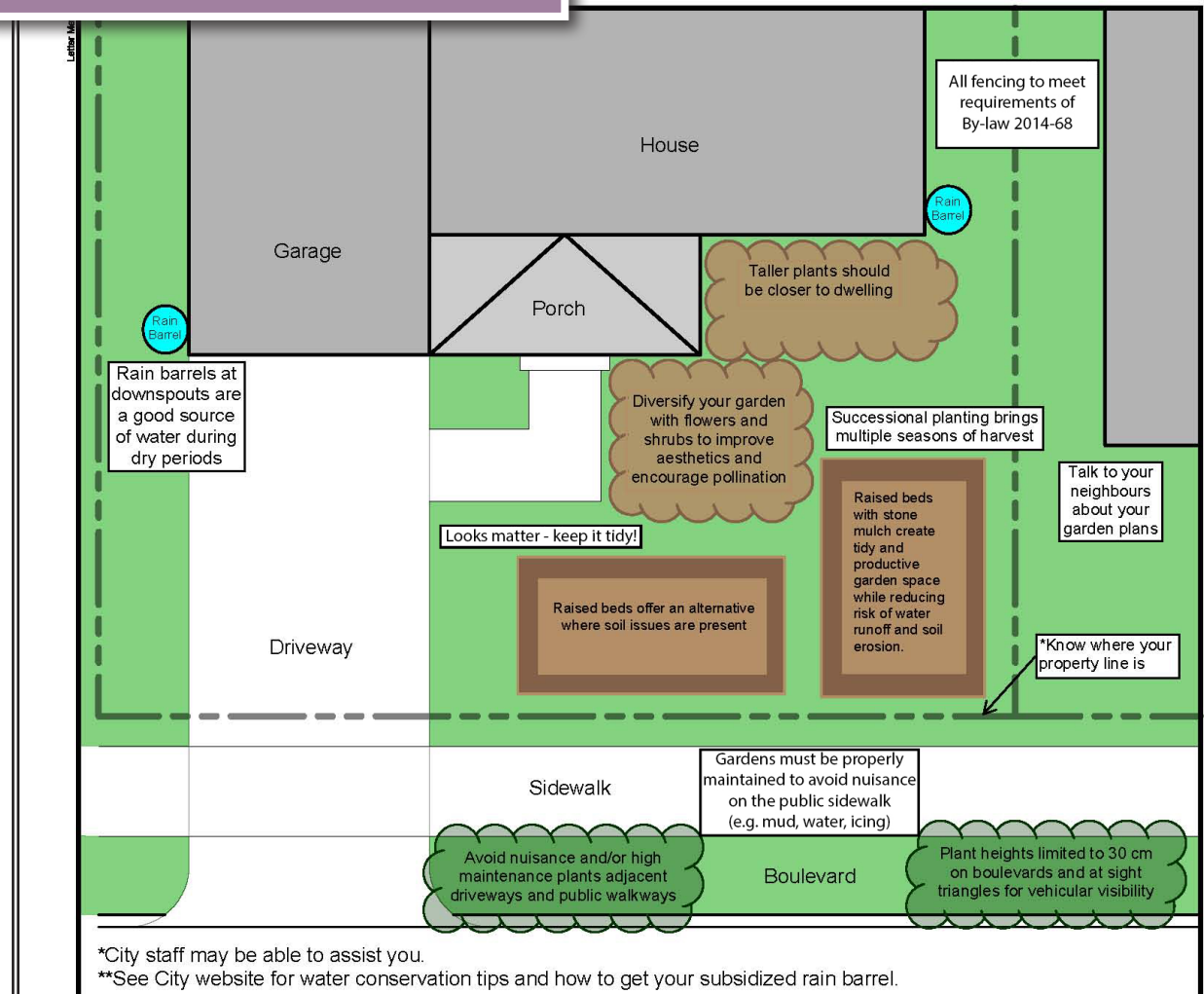
*Note: It is not always possible for the City, Region, utility providers and their contractors to contact homeowners before starting work on boulevards. Plus they are only required to restore boulevards to turf grass afterwards. As a result, vegetable gardens should be planted taking this into consideration.*

## What vegetables should I grow in my front yard garden?

The easy answer is... your favourite ones! We are lucky in Niagara to have one of the mildest climates in Canada, which opens up a whole list of planting possibilities. If this is your first garden, start small, and grow a little bit each year to ensure your garden remains manageable

and is suited to the amount of work you are willing to put into it. To ensure your garden remains fruitful, plant easy to pick/eat foods like tomatoes, peppers, beans, and peas closer to the house, and harder to pick/eat foods closer to the front, such as potatoes, zucchini, etc. Consider more ornamental looking vegetables such as kales, broccoli, and cabbages closest to the 'public' areas, as they meet the City's criteria for growing on the boulevard and also look beautiful. Root vegetables like carrots, turnips, and radishes can make perfect borders and edges to your garden.

## Design Tips



\*City staff may be able to assist you.

\*\*See City website for water conservation tips and how to get your subsidized rain barrel.

Planting a tree, building a deck or a fence? Contact ON1Call first to get a locate so you can dig safely. Remember, you are liable for any damage or injury caused by interfering with any buried infrastructure. Request your free locate online or call 1-800-400-2255.