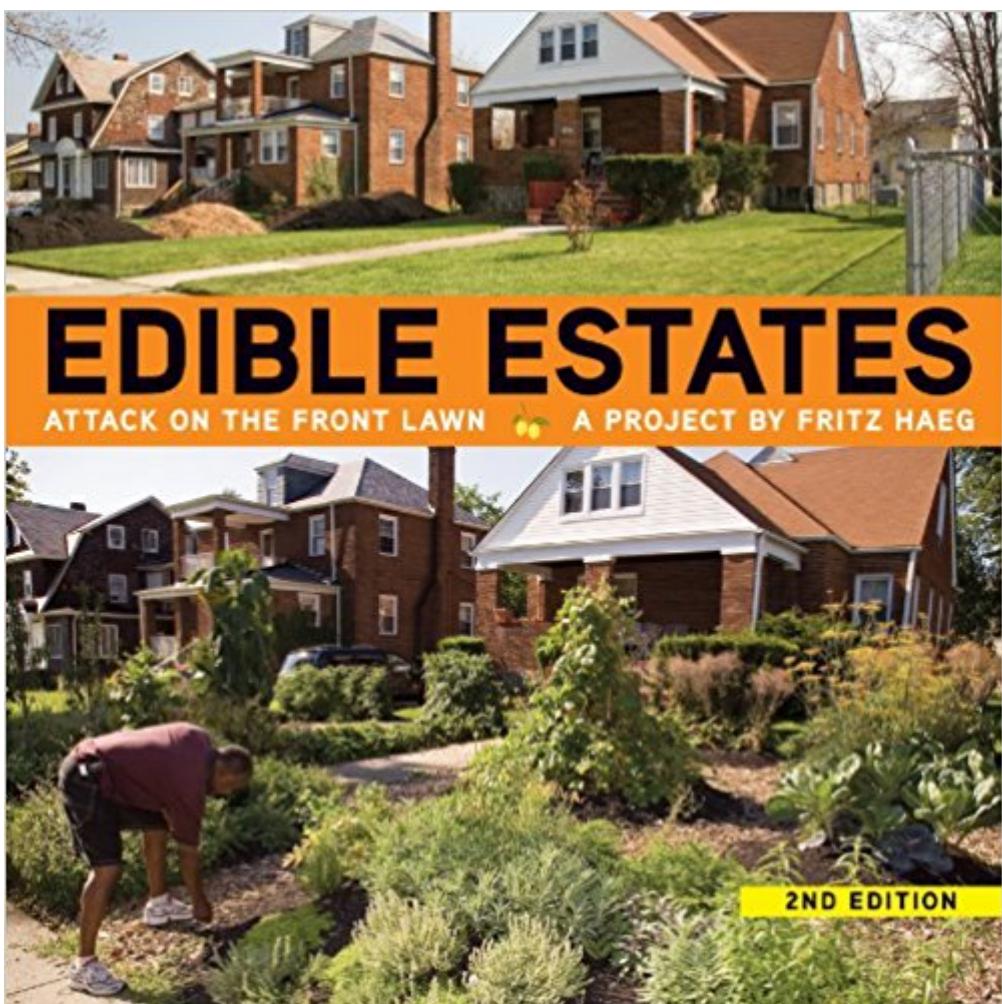


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Edible Estates: Attack On The Front Lawn, 2nd Revised Edition: A Project By Fritz Haeg



Synopsis

Since the first edition of *Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn* was published in 2008, interest in edible gardening has exploded across the United States and abroad. Even First Lady Michelle Obama is doing it! This greatly expanded second edition of the book documents the eight Edible Estates regional prototype gardens that author Fritz Haeg has planted in California, Kansas, Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and England, and includes personal accounts from the homeowner-gardeners about the pleasures and challenges of publicly growing food where they live. Ten “Reports from Coast to Coast” tell the stories of others who have planted their own edible front yards in towns and cities across the country. In addition to essays by renowned landscape architect and scholar Diana Balmori, edible-landscaping pioneer Rosalind Creasy, bestselling author and sustainable-food advocate Michael Pollan and artist and writer Lesley Stern, this edition features updated text by Haeg (including his observations on the Obama White House vegetable garden); a contribution from *Mannahatta* author Eric W. Sanderson; and Growing Power founder, MacArthur Fellow and urban farmer Will Allen’s never-before-published Declaration of the Good Food Revolution. This is not a comprehensive how-to book, nor a showcase of impossibly perfect gardens. The stories presented here are intended to reveal something about how we are living today and to inspire readers to plant their own versions of an Edible Estate. If we see that our neighbor’s typical grassy lawn instead can be a beautiful food garden, perhaps we will begin to look at the city around us with new eyes. Our private land can be a public model for the world in which we would like to live.

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Customer Reviews

I'm very much on board with the program and have a considerable garden in my front yard -- even though it could be in the back. I am growing peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, sunflowers, melons, squash, and herbs in my front yard on both sides of the sidewalk and in front of my house. It's a big deal. So count me in as a true believer. But this is a picture book, and it seemed like it was little more than a stunt. Dull lawns became transformed into massive, gorgeous gardens with the flip of a page. The pictures were inspiring and beautiful. But most gardens in most parts of North America look pretty shabby much of the year. And producing the kinds of gardens in this book in a single season must have been a tremendously labor- and cost-intensive project. I was hoping for a bit more how-to for the person who may not have a landscaping team with a backhoe and unlimited access to productive soil. How to design a garden to look okay in the off-season, how to take advantage of certain kinds of plants for certain kinds of nooks and crannies, how to transform a lawn into produce at the scale of time/effort/money that the average person can afford. How to think about runoff. How to start. This book is inspirational, but I fear those beautiful yards will cause a lot of disappointment come October, and I wonder how many of those gardens will still be around and that productive a few years from now. I hope I'm wrong but I suspect: not many.

This is a well organized book. Very well done, however I was a bit disappointed that there was not a project in the South East. We live in South Carolina and there was no demonstration project nearby. The concepts were very well developed and presented. Kudos for the photography which was excellent.

This should inspire you to do something yourself in your neighborhood. Most of the book is case histories of lawns converted to edible landscaping, usually written by the homeowner who did it. The examples cover a wide range of options. The concept of a garden as installation art was new to me.

Very interesting but I was looking for more instructions than stories.

This book has a lot of great ideas, pictures and descriptions! As someone who already grows lettuce in their front yard, I really enjoyed this book.

I wish I'd read Fritz Haeg's 'Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn, 2nd Revised Edition' before I planted my first vegetable garden. Then, I might have been brave enough to locate the garden on my front lawn (the only spot that gets full-day sun), instead of the less-ideal side yard. I was worried that a front yard garden might look too weird to the neighbors. Not any more! The essays, case studies and beautiful photographs have inspired me to begin planning a new vegetable garden smack in the center of my front yard. Not only will my new garden be beautiful and tasty, but it will also help build community in my suburban NJ neighborhood. I highly recommend this book if:^{*} You're considering a new vegetable garden or any front yard garden; and^{*} You're already an experienced gardener. It's not a basic 'how to garden' primer, but there are plenty of other books on that topic. Now, I'm in the 'design' phase. But I'm eagerly anticipating spring to break ground and start planting!

Great ideas, great book pointing the way to great transformations of our bland American yards, our misshapen evergreen landscaping huddling up by foundations, hemmed in by the expanse of lawn desert. My HOA will probably "get it" in 25 to 50 years. Or not. By that time we'll be a museum piece for that bland '70s suburban look. For everyone else, YES! ATTACK THE FRONT LAWN!

When I first heard of this book I was entering my "I want to have a totally native yard" phase. I put my name on the list at the library and waited at position 2 for over two years! My library finally figured whatever out and I gleefully picked this up last week and pored over the pages. I'm a little bit of a boat-rocker and for some time I've wanted to have a buffalo grass lawn. I see now that even though my neighborhood is not a bastion of green-ness, it just would not be appreciated and have now set my sights on something more acceptable but still not a lawn. This book gave me just the inspiration I need to put things in motion! You don't need a lot of money to get something started, and while the yards in this book had the help of a massive crew and supplies provided for them I still felt like going out to my front yard and hoeing a corner of the weed-lawn that is currently there to plant some corn. My goals are not so lofty as those who do something like this because of "the environment". By no means is keeping a garden a work-free option, but for me I find it less work than fertilizing, watering, aerating, edging and mowing a lawn is. I hope to bring more of a sense of the word "Neighbor" to my neighborhood by planting an edible estate. I used to have fears of someone stealing all my hard work, but I have decided to believe the best about people and if someone does take the food, they must really need it!

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