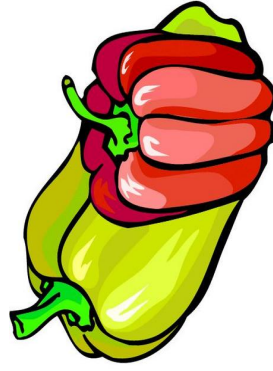


The Edible Plant Project is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based group working to promote edible landscaping and local food abundance in North Central Florida.

Imagine a Gainesville in which every month of the year is marked by different trees ripening fruit, each in its season, in yards, street corners, and parks. **Imagine** a local abundance of vegetables in yards and farmers markets, vegetables which yield abundantly without intensive chemical fertilizer or pesticides because they are locally adapted varieties, ideally suited to our conditions, grown from seed carefully saved from year to year and shared from neighbor to neighbor.



The goal of the EPP is to bring about this vision, to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this country.

A special focus of EPP is tree crops: fruit and nut trees. *These wonders of nature need to be planted only once, and they yield abundantly for decades, often with little or no care.* Anyone who has every stood under a tree loaded with fruit, gorging themselves on the crop, can appreciate the freely given abundance. Right now, there are mulberry, fig, loquat, pear, pecan, and persimmon trees around Gainesville that make heavy crops of delicious fruit and nuts every year. We need more of them!

For many of these tree crops, it is a simple matter to start new plants, from cuttings or seed. At the EPP, we maintain a nursery for starting and growing new fruit and nut trees for distribution to the

community. Prices are set just high enough to cover our expenses.

We have regular work parties at the nursery, at which we start new plants, and weed and otherwise tend the existing ones. **People can volunteer with us:** helping out at the nursery, in the process both producing lots of fruit trees for distribution, and also learning about how to start and grow fruit and nut trees.



Another foundation of local abundance is vegetables. We are working on creating a seed bank of locally-adapted, non-hybrid vegetable varieties so that we can save our own seed from year to year, every year improving the crop by selecting seed from the plants which do the best. By sharing

and distributing seed, this will make us largely independent from the seed companies and their nationally-marketed hybrid varieties that often require chemical fertilizers and pesticides for good production.

Beyond spreading the germplasm of plant varieties, we also want to spread information. Recipes and processing techniques can make sure the bounty is well utilized (for example, dehydrated mulberries taste like mulberry-flavored raisins!)

Instead of consuming highly processed, un-nutritious food that contributes to rampant health problems, people could be eating fresh, wholesome fruits, nuts, and vegetables, harvested at the peak of ripeness. Rather than food produced with massive fossil fuel usage in agriculture and transport, with large scale erosion and fertilizer and pesticide run-off, people could

be eating food grown locally in yards and landscapes, with little environmental impact or fossil fuel consumption.

Rather than food being a packaged, processed commodity, trucked in and purchased at the store, food would once again be something that connects people with nature, with the seasonal cycles of life. Once people realize how easy it is to grow food, there will be many opportunities for giving and sharing the abundance.

Please help us in our work.

Plant fruit trees, and grow and harvest local food to help make Gainesville a more beautiful, sustainable place.

For more information, or if you'd like to participate in the Edible Plant Project, please contact us at / visit:

<http://www.edibleplantproject.com>

THE EDIBLE PLANT PROJECT



"Think globally, act locally - plant a fruit tree today!"