

AUGUST: End-of-Summer Edible Garden Party!!

You have worked so hard all summer, cultivating the yummy and beautiful fruits and vegetables in your garden, you want to share the bounty and nutritious foods with others...so what do you do? Consider throwing an “**End-of-the-Summer Edible Garden Party!!**”

Surround yourself, your family and friends, with colorful, nutritious foods made from your community or home garden. Read below for ideas for throwing your party, including activities, presentation of foods, sharing of gardening knowledge, and special people to invite to help encourage others to try gardening themselves!

Throw a fun, educational and nutritious “**End-of-the-Summer Edible Garden Party!!**” Find some suggestions below, and on page 2:

- Decorate your dining and serving tables with your garden bounty, serve foods using your bounty (see page 2 for more information)!
- Invite local chefs from restaurants that use local produce, ask them to do short demonstrations and/or provide some items for tastings using produce you grew.
- Ask parents, grandparents, and children to share gardening strategies for various types of edible gardens.
- Ask each guest at your party if they have a garden, and if so, how they planned it, planted it, tended it, and what they harvested – get people talking about gardening so others can see that it is something they can do!
- Use this garden party to celebrate the success of your P&R gardens, home gardens, and/or community gardens, small in containers or large in the ground, to inspire others to grow at home or in the community.
- As part of your celebration, showcase infused water in pretty bowls or dispensers – use your favorite herbs, veggies, and/or fruits to add yummy flavors to the water! For examples, see: <http://bit.ly/CHGinfusedwater>, <http://bit.ly/CHGinfusedwater2>, <http://bit.ly/CHGinfusedwater3>.
- At the end of the party, formally launch a growing challenge for fall – perhaps challenges families and P&R agencies to grow kale or fall lettuces, which are quick to germinate and grow to harvest! Ask them to share pictures with you and post to social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)!



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Decorating and Food Ideas

Decorate tables for your “**End-of-the-Summer Edible Garden Party**” that showcase your fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Use edible flowers to decorate dishes. Make an edible center piece. Let your imagination & culinary ideas flow!

CHECK OUT SOME SUGGESTIONS BELOW!

Setting the table! When deciding how to set your dining and serving tables, think about showcasing your home-grown produce in decorations and in colorful, nutritious dishes.

Edible centerpieces! You can create lovely, nutritious (yes edible!) centerpieces for your tables, including radishes, carrots, cherry tomatoes, strawberries, melons, and more! Check out suggestions here:

<http://bit.ly/CHGcenterpiece>, <http://bit.ly/CHGcenterpiece2>.



Recipes from the garden! Search out recipes for the specific produce you grow in your garden. There are many easy recipes you can find for garden harvests, try searching “fresh melon salad recipe” or “garden salad dressing recipe,” and so forth.

Two easy recipes:

- Try spreading your favorite herbed cheese on whole grain crackers, then putting edible flowers on top!
- Make a colorful mixed green salad, place shredded carrots, slices of cucumber, chopped nuts, and feta on top, then garnish with beautiful edible flowers.

