

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL Saturday, April 7, 2012

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# Vine & Dine

*Edible landscaping is the concept of a garden with good taste*



COURTESY OF SAND ZIMMERMAN

In Zoe Wilcox's Albuquerque backyard, fruit and vegetables share space with flowers. Here, cabbage, broccoli, swiss chard, lettuce and sunflower fill a planting bed.



COURTESY OF KYLE ZIMMERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Melanie Rubin, left, and Zoe Wilcox, authors of "The Home Farming Revolution," in Wilcox's Albuquerque backyard.

**BY AMANDA SCHOENBERG**  
*Journal Staff Writer*

**F**or gardeners who like to pair form and function, an edible landscape may be a useful option. The concept is simple — a landscape that is both aesthetically pleasing and also helps fill our bellies.

Edible landscaping means "spending your landscaping time, money and water on something that gives you direct benefit back," explains Jorran Viers, agriculture agent for Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension.

As local food and backyard farming movements gather steam, more people want to grow food at home, says Zoe Wilcox, who runs Mother Nature Gardens and Living Edge Landscaping in Albuquerque, a sustainable and edible landscaping company, with her husband, Bart Edington. Instead of focusing only on annual vegetables, an edible landscape diversifies growth, she says.

Wilcox's vision of an edible landscape includes rainwater harvesting, trees, shrubs, perennials, vines and organic mulch. For her, it is unlike a xeriscape that focuses more on rocks and low-water plants.

An edible landscape is one of the most sustainable forms of agriculture, Viers says. He divides sustainability into three categories — economic,

See **THE GARDEN** on **PAGE C6**

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**If you go**

**WHAT:** Book signing for "The Home Farming Revolution for Drylands," an ebook by Melanie Rubin and Zoe Wilcox. For information see <http://www.homefarmingrevolution.com/>.

**WHEN:** 3 p.m. May 5

**WHERE:** Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande NW

**HOW MUCH:** Free

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