

#BE ORIGINAL ELLE UK THE STYLE MAGAZINE FOR YOUR HOME MAY 2015 £4.30 ELLE DECORATION

Outdoors | REPORT



LAURI KRANZ


Singer-songwriter Lauri Kranz is founder of Edible Gardens LA, an organisation that creates vegetable plots around Los Angeles for everyone from chefs to the LA County Museum of Art. She has also hosted concerts featuring nature-inspired playlists in gardens across the city.

What is your favourite crop? In the winter, there's an abundance of leafy greens such as kale and Swiss chard because as you harvest it, it keeps growing. In the summer, I'm inspired by interesting varieties of tomato and aubergine. **What's your starting point when you design an edible garden?** Every garden is unique because every home is unique. I walk around the space and take into account how it's used: if an area that gets the most sun is also where the children play, then it may not be right to plant there. It's important to determine how a garden serves a person's lifestyle. I ask clients what they eat the most of and give them a list of what's in season. For some I only do the initial planting; for others I tend the plants and harvest them so that

'There's an abundance of leafy greens around in winter, while in the summer I love growing aubergines and tomatoes'

the owners have a basket of herbs and vegetables waiting for them when they get home.

How did the series of garden concerts come about? I met DJ Anne Litt, who works for a local radio station, through a shared love of gardening. We wanted to encourage people to grow their own food, so we decided to put on concerts in private gardens. Moby played at the first one. The next step is to hold events in bigger public gardens.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get started? Begin with something that feels manageable, even if it's just a couple of pots of tomatoes and basil. From there you can build up gradually. The first year is all about learning what grows well with the light and soil that you have (@ediblegardensla; ediblegardensla.com). 

Lauri Kranz plants edible gardens for residential, commercial and community projects around Los Angeles