Well, why not?

Munch the grass and chew on the shrubs?

Eat your landscape?

What?
Why?

• It engages us with our landscape
• It's fun
• Knowledge about food is diminishing
• Food Access is low
• Natives
• Farmer's Trees
• Berries & Grapes
• Perennial Vegetables
• Herbs, etc
• Natives
• Farmer's Trees
• Berries & Grapes
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Natives

Ecologically appropriate

Low water

Wildlife attracting

Natives
Native Trees

- Pecan
- Texas Persimmon
- Texas Black Walnut
- Anacua
- Mexican Plum
- Escarpment Black Cherry
- Mulberry
Shrubs & Herbaceous Plants

Agarita,
Turks Cap,
Nopales,
Chile Pequin,
Agave,
Sotol,
Yucca
Farmer's Trees

- Site Selection
- Planting
- Irrigation
- Sourcing
- Frost Tolerance

Farmer's Trees
Site Selection

- Frost sensitive fruit like protection
- Good drainage
- Sun
- Lots of exceptions and specifics, but:
Planting

- Heavy mulch
- Weed barrier
- Make level donut around tree 3' wide
- Wide hole – not too deep
- Use existing back fill
- Container vs. bare root
- Timing

Timing

Planting
TREE PLANTING DIAGRAM

- Original soil
- Loosened edges
- Amended backfill
- Visible basal flare
- Mulch "square"
Irrigation

- Flood Bubbler first few years
- Switch to drip irrigation as drip line grows
Chill Hours

hours in the winter when the temperatures are below 45 but above 32 degrees
Once the chilling requirements is satisfied, warm weather triggers an increase in plant growth promoters and triggers normal bloom and leaf canopy development.
If mismatched plants bud too early, the tree doesn't set fruit. A high-chilling cultivar planted in a low-chilling region might never fruit at all.
Types of Fruit

Pome, Stone, Citrus, Other
Low Chill - Anna, Dorsett Golden

Higher Chill - Gala, Pink Lady, Fuji
Fungal Pathogens - powdery mildew and scab

Bacterial Pathogens - fireblight - over-vigorous shoots are susceptible
Probably the easiest fruit trees to grow in our area are the ones that require the least amount of pruning and insect control.
European Pears

Ayers, Warren, Orient, Keiffer, Leconte, and Moonglow

European Pears
Asian Pears

Juicy pear-like taste,
crisp texture, much like a good apple.
Disease and insect control are crucial. 

Brown rot, scab and leaf curl

Scale, plum curculio, catfacing insects (stink bugs, box elder bug), and peach tree borer.
The first line of defense is crucial.

Sunlight sterilizes disease and
good airflow is crucial.

Close second.

Sanitization with proper pruning a
good last line of defense is good.
Apricot
Nectarine
Peaches
And then there are the white peaches

Tex & gold in name

TexStar, La Feliciana, Springold, June Gold,

Sentinel, Harvester, Redgold

Fruit size, Stone pit adherence, Ripe date

Categorized by:
The ideal is to plant varieties that are tasty, and spread the harvest date—early, mid, late.

Peaches can be fussy. But so good!
Plum

Good varieties in Austin are Bruce, Santa Rosa, Ozark Premier, Methley, Methley needs a pollinator the least, but most need a friend.
Citrus
Frost tolerance main issue

Some citrus are bulletproof after establishment

Easy – few pests; needs little pruning
Improved Meyer Lemon
Satsuma Mandarin
Other Citrus

once established...

Many interesting varieties good into teens...

Lots of other citrus

Rio Red Grapefruit

Valencia Orange

Republic of Texas Orange

Other Citrus
Various Sub Tropical

- Canary Island Date Palm
- Loguat
- Persimmon
- Pomegranate
- Fig
Celeste, Texas Everbearing, LSU Fig
Pomegranate

Many varieties, but 'Wonderful' is standard
Persimmon

Hachiya

Fuyu
Asian varieties are what we eat here.

Hachiya – astringent – needs to ripen off the tree.

Fuyu – non-astringent – eat off the tree.

Asian varieties are what we eat here.
Loquat

Drought tolerant, and very attractive
Canary Island Date Palm
Cane Fruit

Dewberries, Raspberries, Blackberries,
• Strawberries
• Goji berry
• Elderberry
• Pineapple Guava
Grapes

Black Spanish, Champanel, Golden Muscat

Hybrid: Blanc du Bois

Table: Flame
Attractive herbs for manicured landscape:

Rosemary, creeping thyme, bay laurel, lavender, Mexican oregano, lemongrass
Attractive edible flowering plants:

Amaranth
Rose varieties, day lily, nasturtium, nasturtium,
Attractive medicinal tea plants:

Echinacea, comfrey, yarrow, chamomile, comfrey, yarrow,
Don’t forget your pollinators both for fruit production and ecological balance.