Les Jardins de Métis | Reford Gardens | International Garden Festival 2024

2000

layout plan 1:100

The Table - or Still Life of Edible Plants

Gone are the days of lawns: the lawn of the 21st century is a biodiverse green carpet, a site of unmanaged wild forage. In these grasslands lies one of the new possibilities of ecology: unheard of reserves of food. Right in our backyards, on roadsides and in all of the "third landscapes" (Gilles Clément, 2005), plants grow with ignored food and nutritional potential. Called PANC (or UFPs, Unconventional Food Plants) by brazilian biologist Valdely Kinupp, they emerge as a possibility for diversifying people's diets. PANC are plants, or parts of plants, that can be used as food, but are little known or underused by the majority of the population, especially in urban centers.

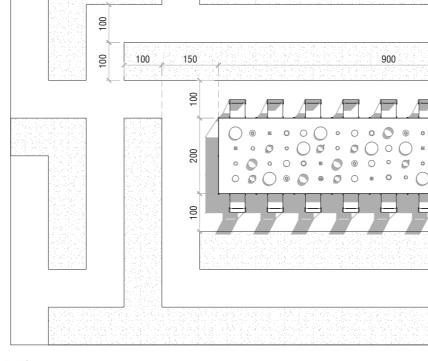
The Table celebrates the world of PANC. Ours is a labyrinthine garden of food-producing weeds, which have been specified on the basis of the consumption possibilities of wild plants available in Québec. These plants are to be celebrated by a large table, or a second garden which will house a composition of plates, bottles, glasses and bowls. A table of still lives made up of vegetables that we ignore. Let's explore this unnoticed ecology. Let's have lunch with these plants!

Suggested PANC / UFPs

- 1. Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolata
- 2. Wild Garlic Allium ursinum
- 3. Wild Amaranth / Pigweed Amaranthus hybridus
- 4. Groundnut Apios americana
- 5. Wild Ginger Asarum canadense
- 6. Lamb's Quarters Chenopodium giganteum
- 7. Chicory Cichorium intybus
- 8. Jerusalem Artichoke Helianthus tuberosus
- 9. Ox-eye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare
- 10. High Mallow Malva sylvestris
- 11. Wild Bergamot / Bee Balm Monarda fistulosa
- 12. Common Evening-Primrose Oenothera biennis
- 13. Plantain Plantago major
- 14. Purslane Portulaca oleracea
- 15. Japanese Knotweed Reynoutria japonica

19. Lowbush blueberry Vaccinium angust

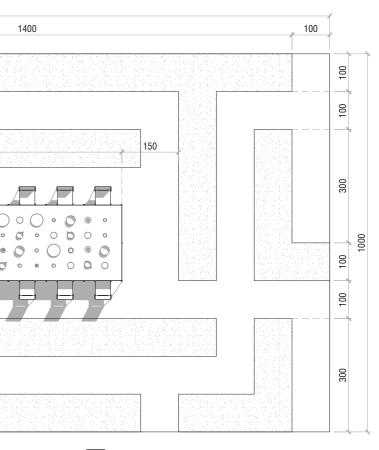
- 16. Chickweed Stellaria mediaW
- 17. Dandelion Taraxacum officinale
- 18. Red Clover Trifolium pratense



300

100





gravel walking path beds with a mix of edible weeds (PANC / UFPs)



1

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Reynoutria japonica







Trifolium pratense

The edible parts of the plants will be distributed on dishes over the table according to the harvest time of each species and the garden's maintenance constraints. The garden may accommodate food-related events during the Festival.





The table, which gives the garden its name, takes on its role in the project as both an object and a concept. As an object, it represents the center of domesticity, the catalyst for social gatherings and the physical support for various daily activities: eating, socializing, working and studying. Made from typical construction materials - sheet metal and steel rebar - and in an exaggerated size by domestic standards, the table as a concept exalts its tectonic dimension, like a small infrastructure. As much as a building - the legs like pillars and the top like a roof - the table here goes beyond its sense of furniture placed in space to be the space itself, the center (and apex) of the labyrinth of edible plant beds.

2

