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FRITZ HAEG

**EDIBLE ESTATES** Most New Yorkers don't have to worry about lawns; a stoop is luxury enough. But if the architect and artist Fritz Haeg has his way, everyone in the country will not only be fixated on their lawns, but they will also be harvesting them.

Mr. Haeg is the creator of Edible Estates, which aims to persuade homeowners to grow not grass but fruit, vegetables and nuts in their yards. The campaign began in 2005 with a commission from the Salina Art Center in Salina, Kan., the geographical center of the United States, where Mr. Haeg helped plant a mini-grove in the yard of a local couple. He was attracted to the area, he said, as a way to take a break from the "cultural ghettos" of New York and Los Angeles, where he had lived. More gardens

were sown in New Jersey, California (above, his "Edible Estates Regional Prototype Garden No. 2: Lakewood, Calif., 2006") and London; Baltimore and Austin, Tex., are next. (Mr. Haeg hopes to do nine in all.)

The project is chronicled in a new book, "Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn," and on Friday night at the main branch of the New York Public Library, Mr. Haeg will discuss it with the theater director Peter Sellars; Dolores Hayden, an architecture professor at Yale; Frederick Kaufman, author of "A Short History of the American Stomach"; and Shamim Momin, a curator of the Whitney Biennial, of which Mr. Haeg is a part. "When I started this project, I immediately realized what a ripe target it is; it's very hard to defend the ex-

istence of the front lawn today," Mr. Haeg, a longtime gardener, said. He grew up mowing in suburban Minneapolis, unsuccessfully cultivating window box plants in the East Village and finally finding his green nirvana in his current home, a geodesic dome in Los Angeles. He does not grow the country's foremost suburban vegetation, grass.

"Before, if you ripped out your entire front lawn and planted food, people would just think you're a hippie," he said. "But now there's a book and a title, and you can say, 'I'm planting my Edible Estate.' There's something more respectable about that, maybe." (Friday at 7 p.m., Celeste Bartos Forum at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 212-930-0830, nypl.org; \$15.)

MELENA RYZIK