

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## A guide to gardening in a small space

One of the downfalls of living in areas such as apartments, townhomes, in the urban city, or in small, patio homes is the lack of outdoor yard space adequate for a garden. However, residents in these areas still have the opportunity to garden, it just may call for new habits. Gardening can essentially be done anywhere. Make the most of your small space by following the tips below.

### Small space solutions:

Potting is probably the most used and easiest solution to growing in a small space. Choose varying sizes of pots and stack them in corners – placing the largest pots in the back and the smallest in the front. This allows for you to plant vegetables that may have a deeper root system and need more underground space to grow efficiently. Pots also can be layered along steps of differing heights or on uniquely positioned decorative ladders.

For those with patios or balconies, add planters along the outer edge of your patio rails. These will receive lots of sunlight and also can increase your curb appeal. For another variation, screw a flower box into the outer edge of windows around your home. This takes up no ground space, and it also creates a splash of color around your windows.

Another option is to choose plants that vine upwards, and place them alongside a fencerow or patio enclosure.

Other ways to utilize small spaces for gardening is by gardening in salvaged



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shutters, planting in a vertical garden tower, on a rooftop, on top of a table, in a frame and on top of bird feeders. Although these ideas may limit the types of plants you can garden, it will still create a beautiful, green environment to enjoy in your small space. Some notes to consider: when gardening on an urban rooftop, make sure your plants can stand up to harsh sunlight and are sturdy enough to resist strong winds, as there's little protection on rooftops. For places such as on top of birdhouse feeders or in frames, opt for plants such as succulents and mosses – these have a shallow root system and won't need much soil depth to thrive in a small space. Get creative. There are unlimited ways to create a garden outside, even in small spaces.

### Indoor gardening:

Another option for those living with limited access to a full garden is to grow items indoors. The most common indoor plants are crops such as herbs, succulents



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and there are live houseplants that prefer being in the protected indoors as opposed to outside. Herbs are a great addition if you want constant access to fresh taste. Place indoor herbs along the ledge of a south-facing window where they will receive efficient sunlight.

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