

## Gardening in Small Spaces

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If this isn't your garden space



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Maybe this is more your size



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Or maybe this works better for you!



Photo by Mike Maddox



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There is always room for a garden to grow some homegrown veggies.



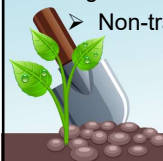
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## Small Spaces

Includes:

- In-ground gardens
- Raised Bed gardens
- Container gardens
- Indoor/Windowsill gardens
- Non-traditional options



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## Nurture your Small Space Garden

Small Space gardens are typically more intensive in nature – that doesn't necessarily mean more time; it's just a different way of gardening.

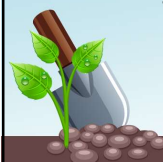


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## Small Space Strategies

1. Think up, not out.
2. Choose appropriate plants carefully, based on your situation.
3. Manage your plants more intimately and intensely.

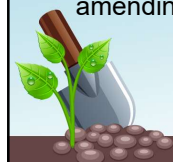


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## Small Space Strategies

4. Interplant and succession plant.
5. Monitor more regularly for water, fertility and pests.
6. Plan for crop rotations.
7. Practice good sanitation and soil amending.

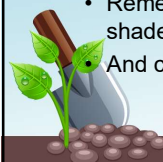


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## Small Space Strategies: Go Vertical!

- Trellis
- Teepee
- Stakes
- Cages
- Strings
- Fencing
- Remember the shade effect....
- And center of gravity



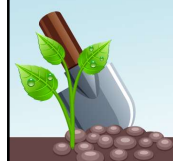
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## Trellises

Trellises/vertical growing makes for straight fruit that doesn't contact soil.

Makes harvest easier



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## Fun Trellising



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## Support for Larger Crops



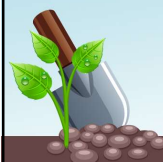
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## Interplanting

Planting two crops together

- Different times to germinate
- One reaches harvestable size sooner
- Plants use different space planes (3 sisters)



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## Interplanting

- Sometimes based on plant size and light requirements
- Works great with containers
- For example:
  - lettuce & staked tomatoes
  - spinach & trellised beans
  - radish & broccoli
  - carrots and radishes

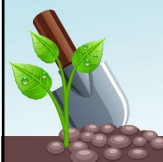


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## Succession Planting

- Planning carefully to use every square inch of space throughout spring, summer and fall
- Know your cool season crops
- Know your warm season crops
- Know the time till harvest for each!



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## Gardening Basics

No matter where you garden, plants need the same things:

- Proper light
- Healthy root zone
- Correct watering
- Adequate fertility



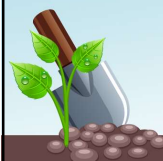
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## Where to Start

Consider your space options, and the growing conditions (light, soil, water, etc.)

- Vegetables need full sun, which is at least 6 hours of midday sunlight each day.



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## Where to Start

- Make a list of all the vegetables, herbs and flowers you want to grow.
- Prioritize your list – what do you want the most?



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## Container Gardening

Opens up all kinds of possibilities!

ANYTHING can be a container!



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## Container types have different pros and cons



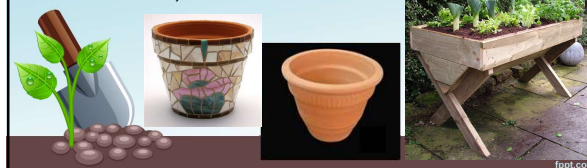
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## Anything can be a container!

Wood – dries out quickly, discolors, rots

Terracotta – dries out quickly, discolors (but that might look cool), cracks if freezes

Glazed ceramic - dries out less quickly, ornamental, cracks if freezes



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## Anything can be a container!

Plastic – dries out even less quickly, light weight, often less expensive, colorful, fades

Other materials – e.g., “faux” stone

Metals – not recommended because of potential leaching and rusting, but can set a pot inside a decorative metal container

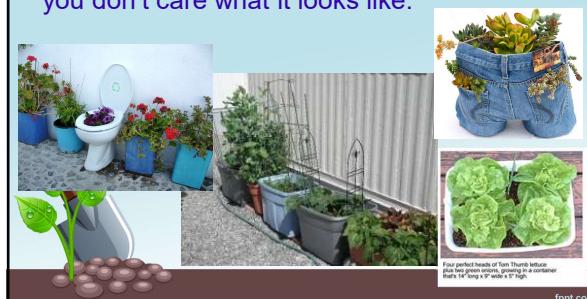
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## Small Space Gardening

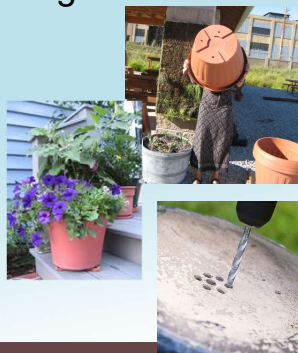
Anything can be a container, especially if you don't care what it looks like.



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## Drainage!

- Always use containers with drainage holes
- Water should drain freely
- Place pot on "feet" or saucer for proper drainage



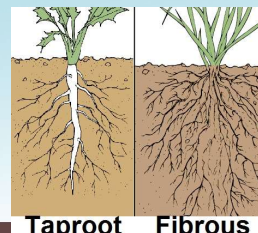
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## Container Choices

Containers should be 10 inches deep or more (except for quick things like lettuce)

Most annual plant roots go down about 8 inches

Only use filler in larger containers

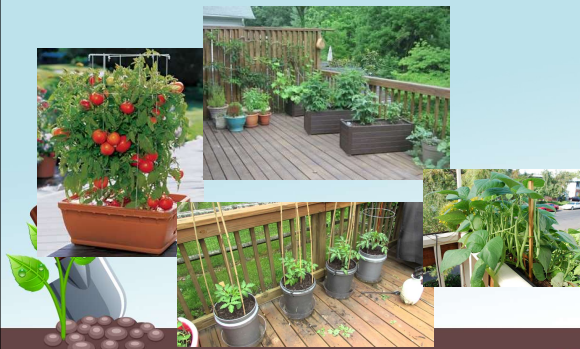


Taproot

Fibrous

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## Deck Gardening



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## Sidewalk Gardening



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## Moveable Gardens – Follow the sun!



18-24" inch container for growing tomatoes

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## Keys to Container Production

- Be creative!
- Use potting mix, not soil
- Go vertical – trellising as possible
- Hang it up!
- Consider smaller cultivars
- Plant intensely - Interplanting and succession planting
- Pay attention to season-long care (fertility)

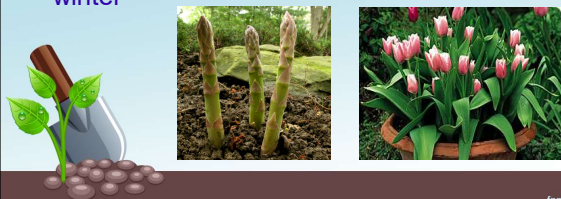


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## Flowers in Containers

Annual flowers or vegetables are best plants for container growing.

Perennials usually won't make it through winter



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## Watering Containers

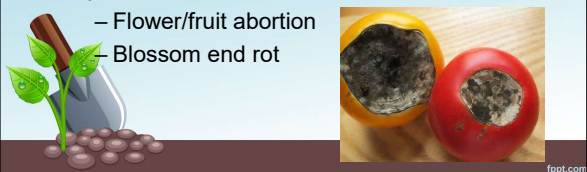
Water – Containers need more water than in-ground gardens. Usually EVERY DAY!!



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## Watering Containers

- Water until it runs out the drainage holes
  - But don't let container stand in water
  - Soluble salt buildup can damage plant roots
- Uneven watering causes production problems
  - Flower/fruit abortion
  - Blossom end rot



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## Reusing Containers and Soil

If no disease was present, remove plants at end of year, including root ball.

Work in 4" of fresh soil or compost before the next year.

Replace all soil every 3-4 years.



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## Grow Anything!



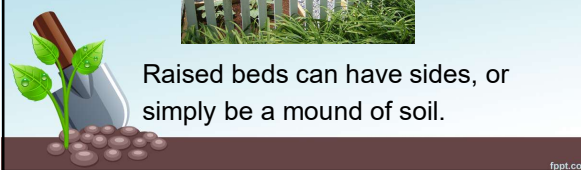
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## Raised Beds

Raised beds are not necessarily small space!



Raised beds can have sides, or simply be a mound of soil.

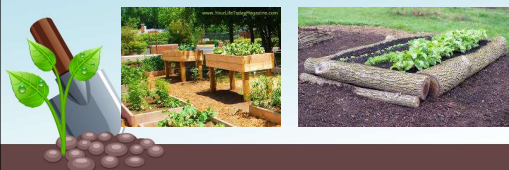


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## Raised Bed Gardens

Commercial products or homemade options



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## Raised Bed Gardens

Pros: Less bending, warms faster, good soil, can plant intensely

Cons: Hard to rototill, dries out faster, need soil to fill them



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## Green Walls



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## You Can't Eat Shoes



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## Pallet Gardens



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## Pallet Gardens

Use sturdy pallets stamped "HT" (heat treated)

Remove any dangerous staples or nails.

Staple plastic or landscape fabric on back and bottom edge.

Fill with potting mix.

Plant between slats.



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## Pallet Gardens

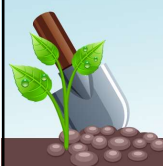
After established, can be set on edge, against wall, stakes, or other options.



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## Straw Bale Gardening

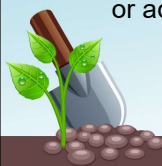
Use a "conditioned" bale of straw instead of potting mix



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## Straw Bale Garden

Start at least 3 weeks before planting  
Place bale on edge (straws vertical)  
Spread high-nitrogen fertilizer  
Soak bale daily  
Plant transplants into decomposing straw  
or add soil layer for seeds.



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## Straw Bale Gardening

- One season
- Needs more fertilizer/water
- Heavy
- Rots (dispose at end of year)



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## Lasagne Gardening

Essentially, creating a compost pile in which to grow plants!



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## Lasagne Gardening

Good for areas with poor soil.  
Can include sides like a raised bed.  
Will settle significantly.  
Can add layers annually.  
Carefully monitor fertility  
(nitrogen)



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## Indoors/Windowsill Gardening

Grow fresh microgreens all year long!



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## Microgreens Indoors

Microgreens are baby plants, that are highly nutritious and tasty, not to mention pretty!

Research has shown that microgreens have 4 to 40 times more nutrients than the mature plants!



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## Microgreens

Use any shallow container. Restaurant carryout containers work great!

Poke a drainage hole in the bottom and fill with seed starter or potting soil.



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## Microgreens

Flatten potting mix for even germination and sprinkle seeds thickly on top.



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## Microgreens

Sift a fine layer of potting mix over seeds.



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## Microgreens

Mist or bottom water carefully so seeds aren't dislodged.



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## Microgreens

Cover to keep moist JUST until seeds germinate, then remove cover to prevent heat and humidity from building up.



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## Microgreens

Put in sunny window and/or under lights, and water when surface starts to dry.



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## Microgreens

Keep moist and let them grow! Harvest after first set of true leaves have developed.



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## Microgreens

Most microgreens are harvested within 14 days of planting, when they are 3-4 inches tall.

Plant a variety for different colors and flavors. Try peas, sunflowers, radishes, mustards, cabbages, lettuces, and herbs.

Once harvested, dump out the container and start another crop!! Plant some every few days to have a steady supply.



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## Microgreens

Enjoy this "vegetable confetti" on salads, sandwiches, in smoothies and in other dishes!!



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## Questions?

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