

Small Space Gardening: Growing More On A Tiny Footprint

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Location, location, location and layout

Full sun, consistent water – high care plants

Veggies need full sun and plenty of care – look for a sunniest, flattest, most convenient place you can find.

Close to main pathway or kitchen door.

Watering should be easy.

Make paths wide and beds narrow enough to easily reach all of your plants

Grow Organically to Protect our Watershed

Build healthy soil

Work with nature

Right plant, right place

Encourage biodiversity

Use the least toxic approach

Conserve resources, water wisely

Learn as you grow

Mix it up

Few city lots have a big rectangle that can be tilled and planted.

Use lots of different techniques to get the most from your small space.

Eat what you grow

There are so many things that you could grow in your garden – it is really difficult to decide. Start with the things you and your family like to eat. Determine where you will get a large enough harvest to warrant giving up garden space.

Plant things that are heavy producers or can be harvested over a long time.

Raised gardens

Raised beds – definition and benefits

Straw bale beds – raising soil on a budget

Burlap sack and bags of potting soil

Containers

Herbs, vegetables, fruit trees and berries can all be grown in containers – you just may need a really big container! Look for bush, compact, determinate or patio varieties.

Containers should be at least 3 or 4 gallon capacity and 12 inches deep. Most of my large containers are 15 – 30 gallon size.

Large containers allow more space for roots and also hold more moisture so watering is easier.

Plants in containers can't mine for mineral nutrients so fertilizing is key.

If you are growing in containers, use a liquid fertilizer rather than dry, granular – liquid fertilizer is immediately available to plants.

Vertical Growing

Conserves space and increases diversity
 Best growing practice for many species
 Pest and disease control
 Ease of harvesting
 Creates visual interest and height

Basics of Vertical Gardening

- Right trellis for right plant – think snakes and rock climbers
- Construct trellis when seeds or transplants go in the ground
- Taller than you think – build your trellis 1'-2' taller than plant's ultimate height
- Use biodegradable string which can be composted – jute twine, cotton clothes line, sisal string
- Build your trellis as though it will be a permanent feature. Anticipate the weight and stress of plants, fruit, rain and wind.
- No need to be fancy – if all goes well, your trellis will be hidden by plants
- Be creative – combinations of bamboo, wire fencing, string, an old ladder or crib sides make attractive and function vertical growing places
- Train and prune plants so that there is adequate spacing and good air circulation
- Have Fun

Edible Perennials

Earliest harvest
 Year-round harvest
 Lower maintenance, Large, “no work” yields
 Multi-functional element in the landscape
 Require fewer inputs of water, compost and fertilizer
 You can grow varieties that are not available locally
 Increases diversity of plantings and nutrition
 Perennials will grow in a wide range of conditions

Varieties for Small Spaces

Plant compact or climbing varieties to get the most from a small space.
 Varieties that ripen over a longer period of time. Glacier is Swedish heirloom tomato that is a determinate variety – it only grows so big, then it sets fruit.
 Pole beans or peas will climb on a tepee or simple, sturdy trellis – they will take up about half of your bed allowing you to interplant lettuce or cilantro.
 Cucumbers, winter squash, pumpkins and climbing summer squash will produce tons of food growing up a trellis.

Annual Vegetables**Snow Peas**

Oregon Giant, Mammoth Melting

Sugar Snap Peas

Tai Chung, Cascadia, Opal Creek Yellow Snap Pea

Snap Pole Beans

Blue Lake varieties, Malibu, Rattlesnake

Dry/Shelling Pole Beans

True Red Cranberry, Mayflower, Rattlesnake

Runner Beans

Painted Lady, Scarlet Emperor, Lady Di

Tomatoes – all indeterminate varieties

Chadwick's Cherry, Peacevine, Camp Joy, Sungold
Gill's All-purpose, Debarao, Burbank

Cucumbers

Suyo Long, Lemon, Mexican Sour Gherkin

Summer Squash

Tromboncino

Winter Squash

Burgess Buttercup, Acorn Table Queen, Pumpkins – pie, mini or carving

Annual Flowers

Sweet Pea, Nasturtium, Morning Glory

Perennial Climbers

Cane Berries – Blackberries, Raspberries, Marion berries, Loganberries
Kiwi, Grapes, Honeysuckle, Passionflower, Jasmine, Climbing Roses

PERENNIAL EDIBLE PLANT LIST**Annual Self-Sowers**

Corn Salad or Mâche
Flowers – Calendula, Borage, Nigella
Gobo
Miner's Lettuce
Minutina
Parsley
Salsify
Scorzonera

Herbs

Agastache
Bay Laurel
Cardoon
Chamomile
Comfrey
Dianthus
Hops
Horseradish
Hyssop
Lavendar
Lemon Balm
Lovage
Mallow

Marjoram
Mint
Monarda
Oregano
Rosemary
Stinging Nettles
Sweet Cicely
French Tarragon
Thyme

Vegetables

Alpine Strawberry
Artichoke
Asparagus
Chives
Day Lily
Dandelion
Garlic Chives
Good King Henry
Mushrooms
Onions – Welsh, Rakkyo
Rhubarb
Salad Burnett
Sea Kale
Sorrel
Sunchoke / Jerusalem Artichoke
Tree Collards
Wild Arugula: Sylvetta

Cane Fruit

Blackberry
Boysenberry
Loganberry
Marionberry
Raspberry

Shrubs and Berries

Aronia
Blueberry
Cranberry
Currant
Elderberry
Goji
Goumi
Huckleberry
Lingonberry
Rose
Salal
Serviceberry
Strawberries
Sumac

Trees: Fruit

Apple
Cherry
Cornelian Cherry
Crabapple
Fig
Fruiting Quince
Mulberry
Peach
Pear
Persimmon

Trees: Nuts

Chestnut
Hazelnut or Filbert
Walnut (English)

Vines

Grape
Kiwi – Hardy or Fuzzy

Books

Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, 2nd ed. by Lisa Taylor, Seattle Tilth, 2014.
Your Farm in the City, An Urban Dwellers Guide to Growing Food and Raising Animals
by Lisa Taylor, Black Dog and Leventhal, 2011.
Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades by Steve Solomon, Sasquatch Books, 2007.
Edible Landscaping. Creasy, Rosalind. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books. 2010.

How to Grow Perennial Vegetables: Low Maintenance, Low Impact Vegetable Gardening. Crawford, Martin. New York: UIT Cambridge Ltd. 2012.

Seed Houses That Offer Heirloom Varieties

Adaptive Seeds adaptiveseeds.com

Deep Harvest deepharvestfarm.com

Kitazawa Seeds kitazawaseed.com

Peace Seeds peaceseedslive.blogspot.com

Territorial Seed Company territorialseed.com

Uprising Seeds uprisingorganics.com