



Small Space Gardens

Live in a small space? Want to grow some cool stuff? No problem!

It can often feel like you're limited when you want a garden, but your living space is tiny. You don't have to be. Make use of the balcony or patio if you've got one. If not, consider using hanging planters or unused wall space to display your plants. For my tiny apartment I got an inexpensive Ikea bookshelf, moved it into an unused section on the wall and put my potted succulents and all my garden supplies on it.

Vertical gardening

This is a great way to make use of limited floor space. You can do anything from an herb garden to succulents to colorful flowers. It's entirely up to you. For vegetable gardens, planting vertically may increase yield and give an overall healthier plant. The trick with this one is to ensure proper water drainage and installation if attached to or hung on a wall.

There are so many ways to create a vertical garden. You can do a simple internet search and it will produce dozens of easy to assemble products and even more DIY ideas, often using repurposed household items such as rain gutters or cinder blocks. Even pocket shoe holders can be used for your vertical garden.

Whether you want fresh veggies or succulents, this is a great option that takes up very little space. There are so many possibilities. Use your imagination!

<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/gardens/best-vertical-garden-planters>

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/home/g36048545/best-vertical-gardens/>

<https://www.countryliving.com/gardening/garden-ideas/how-to/g1274/how-to-plant-a-vertical-garden/>



To Buy



DIY Option

Square foot gardening



This great comeback trend is ideal for a small garden space. The basic concept is that you divide your space, say a 4'x4' raised bed, into one-foot squares. Each square is used for a different crop. This method obviously takes up a small amount of space, it's easy to care for, and is said to use less water and give you just as much yield as a traditional garden.

You can plant anywhere from one plant per square foot up to 16, depending on the crop. Corn and tomatoes require more space than radishes or peas, for example, so you would plant less corn in a square than radishes.

If you want a vegetable garden but don't have or don't want to use a lot of space in your yard, this is a great option for you. It can also mean less work for you in the long run if you do this in a raised bed with a new soil mix. This should cut down on weeds and how much time you spend on your knees pulling them.

<https://squarefootgardening.org/>

<https://gardenerspath.com/how-to/design/guide-to-square-foot-gardening/>

<https://www.amazon.ca/Square-Foot-Gardening-Second-Revolutionary/dp/1591865484>



Square Foot Planting Guidelines

 Garlic (4)	 Onion (1)	 Carrot (16)	 Hot pepper (1)	 Kale (2)	 Kohlrabi (4)	 Head Lettuce (4)	 Leaf Lettuce (16)	 Peas (8)	 Pepper (1)	 Potato (2)	 Squash (1)
 Cilantro (8)	 Fennel (2)	 Bean (4)	 Beet (8)	 Bok Choy (1)	 Brussels Sprouts (1)	 Cabbage (1)	 Cauliflower (1)	 Chives (1)	 Corn (2)	 Cucumber (2)	 Eggplant (1)
 Dill (1)	 Parsley (2)	 Parsnips (8)	 Cilantro (8)	 Butterbeans (4)	 Butterbeans (16)	 Rosemary (1)	 Pumpkin (1)	 Pepper (1)	 Basil (1)	 Beet (2)	 Arugula (16)
 Spinach (8)	 Summer Squash (1)	 Sweet Potato (1)	 Swiss Chard (2)	 Thyme (2)	 Onion (16)	 Turnip (8)	 Winter Squash (1)	 Swiss Chard (2)	 Lemon (8)	 Celery (2)	 Calendula (2)

Container gardens

Small pots and containers are another good way to get a garden into a small space. If you don't have a lot of dirt, you can get some very nice containers that don't take up much of your already limited space. You can find them in just about any shape, size or color that fits your style. If all you've got is a balcony or patio this is a great option to give you some greenery or home-grown veggies.

If you go with a larger pot, a good trick to make it lighter and easier to move is gather some old plastic plant pots (the ones that the plant comes in from the store) or soda cans and put them in the bottom of the decorative pot up to about 1/3-1/2 full. Then pile your potting soil on top of it. This also helps with drainage and air flow to the roots. Getting a plant stand on wheels is a good idea to make moving them around easier on yourself. It also makes them more portable if you move around often.

Consider using a plant stand that holds multiple pots to maximize the space that you do have. You can find these for indoor and outdoor use in just about any look to match your style. Using a stand gets your smaller plants up off the ground, leaving more space for your large containers to fit comfortably.



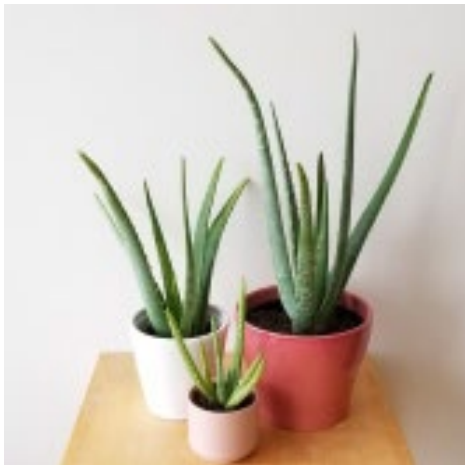


House plants

If all you're looking for is some greenery to liven up your space and don't want to worry about high maintenance plants like veggies, consider some typical house plants such as ferns. Many traditional house plants tolerate low light levels and have been shown to improve air quality which is an added benefit to keeping some around the house.

Some of the more popular ones include (pictured below) aloe vera, pothos, peace lily and snake plant. These are just a few of many that you could potentially keep indoors to bring some of the outdoors in. Many typical house plants are also very forgiving as far as care requirements are concerned. Some can go several weeks between watering meaning you don't need to give much thought to their care at all. Aloe gives you the bonus of being medicinal (think sunburn creams), and edible, although I would recommend doing more research into specific varieties that can be consumed and how to prepare it.

<https://www.hgtv.com/design/remodel/interior-remodel/10-best-plants-for-cleaning-indoor-air-pictures>





Air plants have been a popular trend for the last several years and it doesn't look like that's going to change anytime soon. These are plants that don't need to be planted in soil; in fact, they don't grow at all in soil. These are plants that, in nature, grow with their roots attached to other plants, but you can easily grow them totally on their own.

Air plants can be a perfect choice for someone on the go. They are easy to care for, thriving in low light and only need water about once a week.

Here's a few tips for caring for air plants.

- Water once weekly by submerging plants in water for up to half an hour
- o You may need to mist your air plants a couple times a week in addition to the soaking. This will depend on the temperature and humidity in your home.
- Let dry for a few hours before putting back in displays
- Once a month, use a water-soluble fertilizer for epiphytes/bromeliads
- They love warm temperatures, between 50 and 90 degrees

<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/houseplants/air-plant-care>

<https://pistilnursery.com/blogs/journal/air-plant-care>



Even though you may feel at first that you don't have many options for some greenery in your small space, you've actually got a lot of room to play around with. Other than space, factors to consider are



From The Ground Up

light, temperature and humidity. As long as you can keep your plants happy in those areas, you can get to growing just about anything you feel like, even if you've only got a few square feet to work in.

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