



Ninewells Community Garden

Small Space Gardening

Things to consider

Even if your outdoor space is limited you can still get your gardening gloves on and garden. Whatever you want to grow, there are opportunities to grow in small spaces and in forgotten corners. You can even grow your own fruit and vegetables.

Like all gardening, there are things to consider to make the most of your space:

- Choose plants which suit your chosen location. If you have a sunny spot in the corner of a balcony or on a window sill then choose sun loving plants so they grow and thrive. Fruit and vegetable plants need a good amount of sunlight a day to enable fruit ripening otherwise the plant will become stressed. If light is an issue choose vegetables which can survive in shaded areas such as leafy greens.
- Many plants now have compact varieties. Look for names which contain words like dwarf, patio, compact, or baby as these are normally smaller plants. Remember this doesn't necessarily mean that the fruits will be smaller or the yield less!
- Remember if plants are in pots or containers to choose drought tolerant plants, such as succulents or herbs, or to water regularly. Pots and containers can lose moisture quickly and if you are growing vegetables or fruit a lack of moisture can lead to fruit damage. Consider drip irrigation systems using repurposed plastic bottles to keep your plants hydrated.
- Like water, food can also become scarce in pots and containers as the soil is depleted of nutrients and minerals. Remember to feed your plants regularly by adding more compost, rock dust or even cold tea (no milk)!

Things you might need

Thinking vertically in small spaces is a good way to maximise your space and your growing potential. If you have an old stepladder, use the steps as shelving to position your plants. Remember to ensure that the large or heaviest pots are at the bottom and if it is tall to secure it to the wall.

You will also need:

- Gardening gloves
- A small hand trowel and fork
- A watering can or jug
- Pots or containers suitable for planting (A bag for life can even be used for growing potatoes)
- Seeds, seedlings or cuttings

Other Resources

There are some great websites which have tips about small space growing.

Read the RHS blog on small space gardening (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chatsworth-flower-show/news/2018/Small-Garden-Ideas>) or if you want to grow your own vegetables, a blog by Gardening World has some great tips too (<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/space-saving-veg-crops-to-grow/>).

