



Beautanicals
SEED FARM & NURSERY

Urban Gardening



Common Sense
Gardening



Urban Gardening

As the population of Australia becomes more and more urban and suburban, we need to rethink just how to achieve this in different, specific ways.

Great tasting produce is all in the preparation. The soil, the nutrient and the environment in which they grow.

Where?

Most fruit, vegetable and herb prefer a sunny, sheltered position with no competition from surrounding trees.

If this is not possible in your case then we just need to think differently about what to plant first.

Backyard. Allotment. Veranda. Balcony. Window box or sill. Completely Indoor.

Soil

A good pH neutral, well draining loam soil that is light and airy is essential to produce healthy full-flavoured fruit and veg.

Organic matter

We all produce plenty of organic matter that once mixed into the soil or used as mulch on top will adequately feed your plants to then feed you. There you go, the circle of life.

Seeds

It is always better to start with seed than seedlings purchased that have more than likely been grown a long way away, in an artificial environment and of the easiest variety of plant to produce en-masse.

If you buy seed, not only will you have a seedling that is already



prepared for your environment, but you will have started the process that concludes with saving seed from your own plants to sow next season.

A great habit to start.

Seedlings should always be grown in a protected environment so the purchase of seed raising trays and boxes is rarely a bad idea.

Growing root vegetables from seed is also the only way you can be sure to avoid the curled, bent or retarded root system that so often happens when attempting to transplant a tray of carrot seedlings.

Protection

Your plants need to be protected from insects, birds, animals and a variety of mollusc pests, strong winds, hail, flood and blistering sun.

Food

Fruit and veg benefit from being regularly fed and watered, feeding does not always mean feeding the same thing over and over. You need to vary the diet to suit the season.

Leaf veges such as the lettuce, cabbage and mustard greens need



more nitrogen for healthy leaf growth, whereas tomatoes will need more potassium once fruit starts to form.

Variety

Choose the best varieties to suit your environment and the season. Once you are completely aware of the temperature, wind, humidity and climate in your specific micro environment it will be an easy thing to plan your planting.

Nano gardening allows gardeners to not only plant up, but to plant in a very considered and pre-planned way.

Smaller gardens means vertical gardening including climbers and hanging plants as well as Indoor, Window Sill and Skylight planting.

Now, while you could browse around and collect plants with interesting foliage, you could also consider that growing your own food and medicine is certainly not out of the question.

Indoor Nano gardening gives us the edible garden, mainly in the kitchen, which allows nano-gardeners to nurture in small spaces.

No more vege patch hidden away at the bottom of the back yard, kitchen gardens can be visually pleasing, useful and able to be displayed like trophies in the window cabinet.

While it just so easy to adapt many of the Culinary herbs to indoor pots to flavour the cooking or cocktails, it is also very easy and convenient to grow many vegetables this way as well. The vegetable plants can be

beautiful, edible and useful for entertaining they are also infinitely more brag worthy due to their oddball nature.

While the range of herbs and vegetables that can adapt easily to Nano Gardening is huge, I will begin the discussion by choosing one.



Sweet Potato.

Not the plant you were probably expecting but one of the easiest and most beautiful vegetables to maintain and propagate indoors. It is possible to arrange the growing plant in several ways to suit the space and the format of your choice.

Firstly, it will need light for several hours during the day. Secondly, they will need to grow in dirt or potting mix to ensure good quality tubers.

Understanding the nature of the Sweet Potato is key to success. It is actually a vine that will ramble along and cover as much space as you allow, so as our parents used to say, 'give you inch and you will take a yard' applies to the Sweet Potato.

The plants will naturally run



horizontally but if they encounter a vertical surface they will be just as happy going up.

Unfortunately, the more they ramble, the less they produce tubers.

So, for everyone's sake it is best to keep them from straying.

Once established in a pot (the right size for a good sized tuber) it will vine outwards.

This is the time to place a pot of potting mix or soil underneath the vine.

Using a 'U' shaped piece of wire to hold the vine in contact with the soil lock the vine in the middle of the pot but allow it to continue to grow.

Depending on the space that you have available, you can continue this process along,

zigzag, upright or if using hanging pots, up and down a set of drops.

Just rinse and repeat as many times as you want to.

Remember that the tuber will grow from the point of contact with the soil so the size of your tubers will be governed by the size of the pot.

(And, yes, it is possible to grow square tubers)

When the vine has reached your space allocation it is necessary to prune it off to create that 'full stop'.

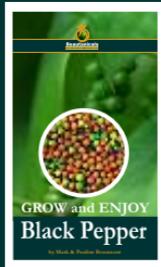
Feed and water each pot individually and every now and then probe around to watch the vegetable develop into a healthy Sweet Potato tuber.





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