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Maximizing Your Patio Gardening

Window boxes, lattices, containers, hanging baskets and more!

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Feeling restricted by a garden-less apartment or a tiny little yard? Never fear, there are many ways to use patio gardening techniques that maximize tiny spaces. Spring is just around the corner and our tips and tricks will let you dream about using your green thumb to create a thriving garden, despite your space constraints.

Photocredit: Flickr / rpaterso

How to Make the Most of a Patio Garden



Photocredit: Flickr / gardengrrrl

When planning your patio garden, choose locations with at least eight hours of sun and be sure that the pots and containers you use are durable and all-weather so that you can store them outdoors and all year round. Then explore all the possibilities for creating an outdoor oasis even when you've only got a postage-sized space to work with.

1. Window Boxes: These are exceptionally good for homes where outdoor space is limited or non-existent. Especially useful for kitchen windows, you can grow herbs, chives, and other aromatics for cooking and aromatherapy. They're also wonderful for flowers.

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2. Containers: When you're restricted to a garden-less patio or balcony, containers are an excellent way to add greenery and a fabulous solution for growing vegetables such as tomatoes, lettuce greens and peppers. Look for stacking containers that allow you to garden on multiple layers to further expand your options.

3. Lattice: Add a vertical dimension to your patio gardening with a lattice; perfect for many types of vegetables like beans and climbing tomatoes as well as beautiful creeping flowers.

4. Hanging Baskets: Make use of overhangs or add wall hooks to the exterior of your building to hang baskets overflowing with flowers and herbs.



Photocredit: Flickr / sjdunphy

5. Tabletop Boxes: If you've got patio furniture, dress it up with box gardens planted in up-cycled tea boxes or old crates.

When shopping for your plants, make them eco-friendlier by selecting pollinator-friendly species, heirloom varieties, as well as plants that are high-yield to take full advantage of your wee garden spaces.

About the Author:

Maryruth has been seeking the keys to environmental justice—both at home and at work—for over a decade. Growing up adjacent to wild spaces, Maryruth developed a healthy respect (and whimsical appreciation) for things non-human, but her practical mind constantly draws her down to earth to ponder tangible solutions to complex eco-problems. With interests that range from green living to green business, sustainable building designs to organic gardening practices, ecosystem restoration to environmental health, Maryruth has been exploring and writing about earth-matters for most of her life. Of special interest is the subject of ecopsychology and the role the natural world plays in the long-term health and well-being of humanity. You can learn more about Maryruth's work by [visiting her site](#).

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