

The Small Garden

Even if you don't have a large yard or green space to work with, you can still have a beautiful outdoor space to work out your green thumb. Here are some hints for making the most of your little slice of the great outdoors.

Think Vertical

Just like in cities, the quickest way to get more space may be to go up. Line a fence or wall with artfully placed flower boxes and alternate color and greenery. Choose plants for leafy texture as well as blossoms, and remember to take into account the amount of sun your space gets. Not into a lot of elbow grease outdoors? Try shelves of succulents in a variety of colors and pots.

Take Advantage of Vines

You don't need a lot of room for flowering (or even fruiting) vines to grow. Instead, arrange them along shaped trellises or cages and take advantage of their natural propensity to spread. Keep the vines pruned to keep them from taking over.

Creative Containers

Keep in mind that your containers will need to drain, be mobile and stand up to the elements. Once that's covered, you can make almost anything into a flower pot with a little work. Get creative and recycle (clean) tin cans and interesting containers. A lot of local garden centers and pottery shops may also offer up pretty pots at great prices.

Pair it Up

If you're planting edible plants, such as fruit trees, pair them up, if needed, so they bear fruit. Talk to the experts at your garden center about varieties that need a mate and those that are self-pollinating. Many fruit trees are created to grow on patios, including apples, citrus, peaches and more.





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