



How to Grow in Small Spaces at Home

Colorful containers and beautiful ceramic flowerpots packed with vegetables can bring some joy and breathe a new life into your space, while second-hand shops and seed exchanges can provide the tools you need on a budget

Be Imaginative with Space

Not having access to a garden doesn't mean you cannot grow your own vegetables at home. Windowsills, balconies, fire escapes, and rooftops can make ideal growing spots. It's crucial to find a sunny growing zone since most vegetables need at least six hours of direct sunlight to thrive. Containers offer flexibility to be moved around. "Growing at small scale is often more about the joy of growing the plants than the quantity of food they produce. This is because when you grow your own food at home, you end up harvesting more than a meal—there is a fullness in the process. We learn to better understand our relationship with food by being responsible for its journey to our plate," says David Haisley, who tends his rooftop garden in New York City.



Beekeeper Geraldine Simonis (above and previous page) moves her Thai basil plant onto her fire escape garden.



Outside her apartment window, Simonis has a small container garden where she grows kale, tomatoes, and other vegetables and herbs.



Urbanspace's former director of development, David Haisley, created a vibrant rooftop terrace garden outside his apartment in Brooklyn.



A family releasing ladybugs in a backyard vegetable garden in Brooklyn.