

Urban Gardening (small spaces)



Time of Year

Any time of the year.

Aim

To grow vegetables in small spaces when there is no grass or little space for a bigger garden.

Cross Curriculum Relevance

SESE:	Living things, environmental awareness & care, recording, observing.
Maths:	Measuring, counting, estimating, recording, active learning.
Literacy:	Writing, spelling.
Art:	Making signs, painting containers.
Informal Curriculum:	Food Dudes, Healthy Eating, Discover Primary Science.



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Notes

- Concrete areas may be more sheltered and warmer and so can grow more exotic plant varieties.
- Plants grown in containers will need more care and more watering.

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Ideas

- Raised beds
- Hanging baskets
- Living walls
- Pots and containers (barrels, baths, washing machine drums, boots etc)
- Roof gardens
- Fruit tree fans and espaliers (against walls)
- Hanging plants and climbing plants

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Example Projects

Raised Bed

- See raised bed support sheet for details.
- Make sure the dept of the raised bed is 225mm for good deep water retention and root development care and more watering.

Potatoes in Tyres

Resources

Tyres, 3 seed potatoes, compost/soil, water

Method

- Place one tyre on the ground and fill with compost/soil.
- Plant the seed potatoes into the tyre.
- When leaves start to show, add another tyre and cover with more soil/compost.
- Continue to add tyres throughout the growing season and harvest when the tops of the plant die off.



Urban Gardening (small spaces) contd.

Health & Safety

Take care when turning compost heaps. Always wash hands after handling compost. Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.

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Lettuce and flower window box

Resources

Window box or container, lettuce seeds, flower seeds, compost / soil, water.

Method

- Fill container with soil/compost.
- Sow the seeds directly into the soil or sow in pots and transplant into the container when grown.
- Label all seeds.
- Harvest lettuce when ready and eat.
- Remove dead flowers to maximise flowering time.

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Ideas for Research projects

Maths – Measure and plan the garden and draw a map, measure the size of container and work out volume of soil required.

SESE – Research Mediterranean plants and microclimates.

Art – Decorate containers, make labels and signs for plants, and make display and plan of the garden.

For more information

Cultivate Centre: www.cultivate.ie

Research Words: **ESPALIER, FAN**

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Apple tree against a wall

Resources

Wall space, apple tree, compost/manure, soil, water, masonry nails and twine or wires.

Method

- Cut a hole through the concrete large enough to plant the tree or drill 50mm hole in the concrete and make a raised bed (see above) to plant the tree in.
- Dig a hole and add manure/compost.
- Plant the tree and water.
- As the tree grows, prune into the shape of a fan so the branches lay flat against the wall.
- Tie back branches as they grow.

