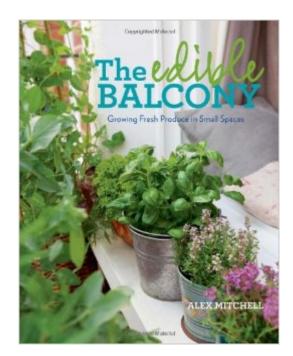
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The Edible Balcony: Growing Fresh Produce In Small Spaces





Synopsis

You don't need a sprawling backyard or spacious raised beds to grow delicious fruits, vegetables, and herbs of your own. In The Edible Balcony, longtime urban gardener Alex Mitchell shows how to transform whatever space you have, from a balcony or rooftop to a fire escape or window box, into a profusion of fresh, seasonal produce. While raising your own produce is eco-friendly in itself, you'll learn how to plant, grow, and water as sustainably as possible to ensure your edible Eden remains green and productive all year long. Plus, with a collection of innovative, step-by-step projects for designing colorful pots and plant supports with recycled containers and other household paraphernalia, you'll double your eco-friendliness, avoid hours of shopping, and be able to infuse your space with your own personal flair and style. Who knew saving time, money, and the environment could be so much fun?A collection of practical advice, fabulous container projects, and stunning examples of how gardeners around the world are successfully transforming urban spaces into abundant fruit and vegetable plots, The Edible Balcony is your guide to creating attractive, responsible, and thoroughly rewarding small space gardensâ •and perhaps never having to settle for grocery store produce again.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages Publisher: Rodale Books (February 14, 2012) Language: English ISBN-10: 1609614100 ISBN-13: 978-1609614102 Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.7 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (41 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #439,196 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Urban #100 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Container Gardening

Customer Reviews

I love The Edible Balcony: Growing Fresh Produce in Small Spaces. I do not know how they got so much information and so many beautiful photographs packed into this one single awesome reference. Everything but the kitchen sink is covered: Why should I grow food on my balcony?Planning your piece of the edible skyDesign BasicsPot ChoiceBest crops for grow bags,

window box, hanging baskets, city farming, a windy balcony, raised beds, scarce water supply, shade, fruit tree orchard, heat, exotic, forest roof garden, and futuristic balconyEasiest cropsCrops that give alot backPotting Mix and plant foodHow to Make it personalBee-keepingHow to make your crops work hard so you don't have toHighly sustainable - worm farming, storing rainwater,Vertical farmingHydroponicsPests & diseasesRecommended suppliersThere are projects:Peas and sweet peas in a wicker basketBeets in a bread boxColorful zucchini in a top drawerUtilizing a hat rack as a trellisColander of tomatoes and nasturtiumsUtilizing reclaimed shoe hanger over over-door organizerUtilizing balcony railings as trellisHow to make your own simple self-watering container for freeUsing recycled bottles as hanging plantersUsing recycled bike tires as a planterMake a scarlet runner bean tunnelInspirational gardens and ideas are covered. There are beautiful photographs on just about every page.

It doesnâ [™]t get any more fresh, local and organic than this â " flowers and produce grown on your own balcony or rooftop. Alex Mitchell is the English garden writer (Sunday Telegraph) and crusading gardener who has published this very interesting and highly entertaining book on making good use of very small spaces. Not everyone, after all, has broad acres of sunny garden space, but everyone wants to live well and eat well. The reasons for balcony gardening are several and compelling, starting with the best and most important ones: because you want to and itâ [™]s just plain fun. More serious reasons are that it transforms often bare and ugly spots into attractive areas bursting with fresh life. The produce it yields is local and organic, it is riper, tastes better and is better for you. Did you know the average bit of salad greenery from the grocery store traveled 1400 miles to reach your plate, and are you OK with that? I, for one, am not. Balcony and rooftop gardens keep cities cooler, reduce air and noise pollution, help control rainwater runoff, and provide habitat diversity where it is sorely needed. And, a bonus, most such gardens are out of the reach of many destructive pests like snails and slugs. There are two more reasons for this kind of gardening. First, it is important for every person to have a connection to the land and space we inhabit, and for that land and space to feed us, not just literally but figuratively as well, and this is especially true for urban children. Even if it is only a simple herb garden, that cup of mint tea of that bit of basil in our salad is an essential connection between us and where we live.

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