

## A garden in the corner



An urban garden might be out of passion or need; for beautification and getting a fresh look; can be by the eldest or youngest of the family. It might be on the rooftop, on the balcony, hanging on the roof, in bathroom, in anywhere! The variety of species might be cacophony of cactus to beauty of bonsai banyan tree. (But in the slum areas, story is different. People stay in a very limited space and there are troubles of stagnated waste material unavailability of space and lack of proper sanitation system.)

On the other hand, the amount of fresh vegetable and leafy vegetable we eat is very less – due to lack of awareness, and increased rate. It is true that we get vegetable in the market always, but are they poison free? Free from extra colouring agent?

Keeping all these in mind we tried to develop some low cost model of pot vegetable garden on the occasion of environment day this year for the urban household in the BITM, Kolkata.

### Why pot vegetable garden?

- We have a passion for plants, but space is less. Pot can be an alternative.
- If we use thrown away plastic bottles, tires, tin can, wooden box etc, we will be able reuse those waste materials, instead of making a pile of waste by the road.
- If we use kitchen waste to make vermicompost for better nutrition of the plants, we will get rid of the organic wastes which cause bad odor when decomposed.
- Pot-garden is easier to maintain, like deweeding, pest control etc.

As a result of this effort, we will get poison free vegetable daily.

### Hanging Garden



We have used plastic pot bought from the market, but one can definitely use broken plates or other utensils. It can be hanged from the balcony or from the bamboo column of the verandah.

Any short height short rooted plant is suitable depending on the depth of the pot. Here different types of leafy vegetable, onion, sweet potato, coriander etc is preferable.

## Bottle garden



Use this model for deep rooted plant. Make one or two small windows on the top a two litter bottle. Place 1 or 2 seeds of any leguminous plant and hang it. So that it can climb somewhere. You can cut the bottle half to grow brinjal, spinach, chili etc.



Make a window on the body of the bottle and use this kind of horizontal models for short rooted plants like different leafy vegetables, coriander, mint etc.

If you cut both the sides of the bottle, you can plant some creeper or wild variety spinach, which will hang from both ends.

Keeping the principle in mind, you can definitely use some other alternative plots.



## Tire Garden



In urban areas, thrown away tires are always available. It can be installed even in a concrete plane as it doesn't need any digging up. As the volume inside the tire is big, the amount of soil also is of a good amount. So you can have any kind of multi-height crop arrangement, like Papaya-Spinach-Onion-Chili-Brinjal.

Instead of tire, you can have big biscuit can, thrown away wooden box or suitcase, even big sac made out of nylon string.

## Rooftop Creepers



It is not a rooftop in usual sense, but roof can be used for any kind of creeper like bitter gourd, roof gourd, cucumber, pumpkin etc. Usually the leaf, stem, fruit and flower - every part of the plant is delicious and nutritious. It needs large space, but you need not bother about that, as it is spreading over your roof.

### Technical details

Vegetable plants need sunlight. Keep that in mind.

Always make small holes on the bottom of the pot to drain out extra water.

For other technical details contact [drcsc@vsnl.com](mailto:drcsc@vsnl.com)

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