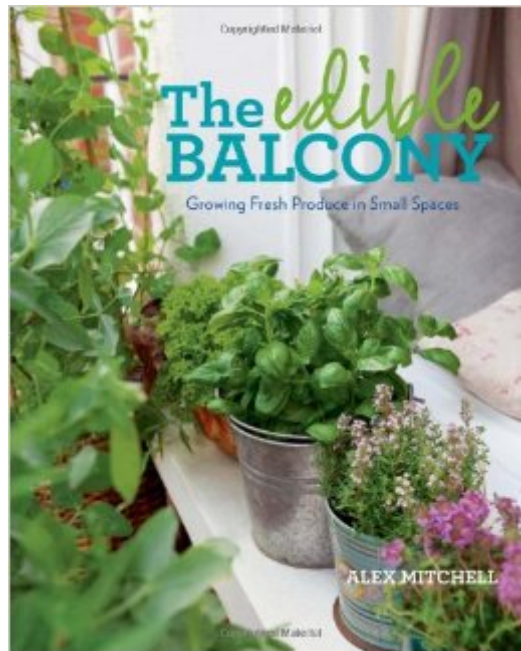


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# The Edible Balcony: Growing Fresh Produce In Small Spaces



## 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 gardens—and perhaps never having to settle for grocery store produce again.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [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 sky Design Basics Pot Choice Best 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 balcony

Easiest crops  
Crops that give alot back  
Potting Mix and plant food  
How to Make it personal  
Bee-keeping  
How to make your crops work hard so you don't have to  
Highly sustainable - worm farming, storing rainwater,  
Vertical farming  
Hydroponics  
Pests & diseases  
Recommended suppliers

There are projects:  
Peas and sweet peas in a wicker basket  
Beets in a bread box  
Colorful zucchini in a top drawer  
Utilizing a hat rack as a trellis  
Colander of tomatoes and nasturtiums  
Utilizing reclaimed shoe hanger over over-door organizer  
Utilizing balcony railings as trellis  
How to make your own simple self-watering container for free  
Using recycled bottles as hanging planters  
Using recycled bike tires as a planter  
Make a scarlet runner bean tunnel

Inspirational gardens and ideas are covered. There are beautiful photographs on just about every page.

It doesn't get any more fresh, local and organic than this – 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 it'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 or that bit of basil in our salad is an essential connection between us and where we live.

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The Backyard Homestead Guide to Raising Farm Animals: Choose the Best Breeds for Small-Space Farming, Produce Your Own Grass-Fed Meat, Gather Fresh ... Rabbits, Goats, Sheep, Pigs, Cattle, & Bees  
The Edible Flower

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