



Nurture Nature Center, located in Easton, Pennsylvania, created an Urban Garden in a small parking area using recycled and found materials to demonstrate low-cost growing techniques for small urban areas (walls, balconies, small paved spaces). This fact sheet is part of a series that features information about demonstrations in the garden that are easy to replicate and implement in a variety of urban spaces.

Shade Gardening

Description:

Shade is a fact for many urban gardens where a small space is often shaded by trees or nearby buildings. Shade can limit what can be grown, but it can also be beneficial. For instance, in the shade, you won't have to water as much since plants will not dry out as quickly.

Planting in the Shade:

Shade gardens can offer a cool refuge from hot, summer weather. The amount of shade in any one place can range from partial to full shade and will determine what plants do well. For a list of trees, shrubs and flowers that prefer shade, see the resources listed below. If you want to grow vegetables in the shade, choose plants that will do well with less light. Fruiting plants like tomatoes and peppers need a lot of sun. Shade-tolerant vegetables include plants with edible leaves, stems, or buds. For example broccoli, cauliflower, beets, greens, peas, Brussel sprouts, and radishes will grow in shade with at least three to six hour of sun or fairly constant dappled shade. If you're in an area with full, dense shade, it will be hard to grow vegetables. Instead, try growing some of the plants suggested in the resource section below.

For more information related to Nurture Nature Center's Urban Garden Project, see <http://nurturenaturecenter.org/garden/>

Resources:

For a list of shade tolerant trees, shrubs, and ground covers, see:

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/fact-sheets/trees-shrubs/shade-tolerant-trees-shrubs-and-groundcovers>

For more on vegetables that grow in the shade, see:

<http://philadelphiacountymastergardeners.blogspot.com/2012/02/vegetables-that-grow-in-shade.html>

Flowers and other plants that prefer the shade are described here: <http://www.donnan.com/planting-in-the-shade.html>



Tips:

- To avoid fungal diseases such as powdery mildew, always water plants in the morning so that the water will evaporate from the foliage quickly.
- In places where no direct sunlight reaches the garden, you can paint nearby fences or walls white to reflect all available light.

