

## **Balcony gardening**

Dutch gardening culture is very well known. The Netherlands as one of the biggest distributors of flowers and vegetables (the second biggest exporter of farm food after the US) also has plenty of seeds and bulbs. That's why in each city and village you can find examples of urban gardening. Naturally, most urban gardening examples involving youth could be found in big cities.

Why? Because a lot of foreigner students bring their nostalgic experience of gardening. They start growing vegetables and flowers in the apartments and on the balcony.



Why should I start with (balcony) gardening? Balcony gardening has several benefits – using free space to grow your own vegetables and flowers, to stimulate circular economy principles, to make nicer views, to freshen air, to stimulate healthy lifestyle.

You can find inspiring examples on the following bloggers pages:

"I grew my tomatoes upside down. Have you heard of this yet? It's a great space saver. I got the idea because my Aunt Sharon did it a couple years ago and had success with it. You grow the plants from seed, and when they get their first true leaves (plant is maybe 10-15cm tall), you transplant them into a bucket with holes cut out in the bottom. It's a two person job. One person has to hold the bucket up (once the plant's root balls are placed upside down into the holes), and the other fills the bucket with soil. The benefit is that you don't need to stake the plant, and the water goes straight to the roots. The plants have lots of little green cherry tomatoes waiting to ripen, if only that goddamn sun would shine. SIGH"

