

Urban Agriculture Definition

Urban agriculture is the production of food and other agricultural products in urban, peri-urban settings. This includes in-ground and raised-bed production as well as aquaponic and hydroponic production systems. Additionally, urban agriculture also includes the rearing of honeybees, fish, and small livestock and where permitted. There are four broad categories of urban agriculture:

Market Gardening

Small scale production of agricultural products grown to sell through a marketing channel such as Farmers' Markets, CSAs, etc.

Urban Farming

Urban farms produce food crops for sale to others and can be larger in scale than market gardens. Urban farms may be organized as for-profit businesses operated by individuals or as non-profit social enterprises designed to provide food to address food insecurity, provide vocational training, or address another community issue, typically at the neighborhood level. Urban farms operated as social enterprises are typically managed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Urban farming includes indoor controlled environment production including hydroponic and aquaponic systems

Community Gardening

Community gardens are widely defined as a single plot of land that is gardened collectively by a group of people. Community gardens can be further divided into single plots or maintained as one large plot. Entities such as schools, food pantries, and faith-based organizations may host community gardens. City or county land bank properties as well as privately owned plots are often used for community gardens.

Backyard Gardening

Backyard gardening includes producing food in one's backyard for household consumption or donation.

Ohio State University Extension staff and faculty engage in urban agriculture in many ways. Some of these ways include but are not limited to:

- training new farmers, community gardeners, and backyard gardeners
- providing agribusiness training
- advising on production issues such as pest management and soil health
- participating and/or leading local food councils
- providing nutrition education
- youth programming including 4-H and workforce development initiatives

Extension urban agriculture includes all program areas and in many cases county personnel work cross programmatically together to deliver programming. This work usually supports underserved audiences and is entwined with issues surrounding equity, access, and inclusion.

Urban agriculture can be a profession (supplemental or livelihood), a form of therapeutic work, a form of recreation, a mode of education, a practice of community development, an effort to increase food security and community nutrition, a way to regenerate and beautify neighborhoods, or a form of resistance to unjust systems and structural racism.

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