

9 OF THE BEST: *Small space gardening tools*

Are you a budding gardener? Start growing your own even in the smallest of outdoor spaces with these handy compact must haves

With the sun shining and the temperature rising outside, it's only natural to start looking at ways you can liven up your outdoor spaces. But not all of us have the luxury of a large garden, which means we need to get a little more creative and careful with our outside planning.

If you're looking to grow your own kitchen garden of fruit and vegetables, gardening expert and 'Grow, Cook, Eat, Arrange' podcast host Sarah Raven suggests splitting the space up into concise sections. 'Even a small patch can be divided into four areas, ideally four quadrants with a cross of paths and a small, round central bed in which you could grow a tepee of sweet peas,' suggests Sarah. 'The four beds are then allocated to different plant groups: one for roots including potatoes, beetroot and carrots; one for things like beans and peas; one for salad and herbs; and one for a hotchpotch of things such

as courgettes, sweetcorn and leafy greens, chard, kale and spinach,' she adds. Get a selection of tools such as rakes, spades and weeders – you can find small handheld designs that can be stored away compactly after use.

However, if ground space is limited then it's time to look upwards. 'If you've got no floor space to play with, take it from the window to the wall!' says Samantha MacNamara, Senior Brand Manager at Rowse Honey. 'Window boxes will help you to curate curb appeal while also providing bees with swarms of nutrients.' In fact, there are many ways you can utilise the vertical areas of your garden that have a huge benefit. Tall yet compact greenhouses are great for those looking to start growing vegetables and come in handy when the weather gets colder. Likewise, there are a range of compact versions of gardening essentials to buy these days. Just check out our favourite picks to help you. 

Grow like a pro

Marcus Eyles, Horticultural Director at Dobbies, shares his tips on where to plant up in a small space this summer

Living walls grow in popularity every year, as people are keen to increase their growing spaces. Great for cool, calm foliage like hardy ferns and ivies or create splashes of colour with a patchwork of bedding plants. They can also be productive with grow your own produce like tomatoes, lettuce, thyme, parsley and basil.

For patios, planting in pots has become such a passion with a lot of people as it is so easy to change your garden as the seasons develop. Choose bigger pots as they are better for the plants to grow and make sure you are using the right compost to suit each plant. Combine planted pots into groups of foliage plants and flowering for best effect. Cannas, lemon trees

and begonias will give a tropical feel in full sun. Fuchsias, busy Lizzies, bellflowers and hardy ferns make a cool, relaxing zone and grow best in the shade.

Upright and trailing geraniums are really good for window boxes in full sun as they are also drought tolerant – useful if you forget to water sometimes. Troughs around the edge of your patio are super space-efficient and great for growing dwarf bush tomatoes, peppers and 'cut and come again' salads.

Setting up garden shelves with collections of plants is a growing trend. A brilliant trick if you haven't got much ground space to work with is to line the shelves with the likes of primulas, geraniums or scented pelargoniums. Nicely spaced apart in beautiful terracotta pots, they will look stunning.



TIER MINI GREENHOUSE, £44.99, VONHAUS

Designed with small spaces in mind, this mini greenhouse offers all the benefits of a full-size version in a smaller, compact unit. It has a strong powder coated steel frame and resilient PVC cover with a zip panel door for easy access and ventilation for your plants.

- Suitable for use all year round
- Quick assembly
- Measures 158 x 69 x 49cm
- Weatherproof protection
- Four removable shelves



FOXMORE RAISED COLD FRAME, £140, GARDEN TRADING

The perfect place to grow seedlings in a small garden space, this compact cold frame is made from natural pine and plexiglass to ensure plants can get sunlight while staying protected. The lid also lifts to six different heights for your choice of ventilation.

- Measures 86 x 79 x 38cm
- Weighs 13kg
- Made from pine
- Six opening positions
- Handy bottom shelf



GARDENING TOOLS, FROM £15.95 EACH, ANNABEL JAMES

These gardening tools designed by Sophie Conran are a great starting point for any budding gardener. Pick and choose which pieces you need – shown is a weeder, compost scoop, hand rake, ergo hoe, and dibber.

- Waxed FSC beechwood handles
- Stainless steel heads
- Brass ferrules
- Comes gift boxed
- Each tool sold separately

GREY ACACIA POTTING TABLE, £85, DUNELM

Complete with a handy shelf for storing spare plant pots, tools, or logs, this acacia wood potting table is highly durable and water-resistant for use all year round. It comes in a painted finish, which is easy to wipe clean with a soft cloth and is a great base for organising and potting.

- Measures 100 x 60 x 38cm
- 100 per cent acacia wood
- 1 year manufacturer's guarantee
- Available in Grey or Black
- Full assembly required



EDITOR'S CHOICE

NORFOLK LEISUREVERDI PLANT STAND, £159, CUCKOOLAND

When it's time for flowers to start blooming, pop this plant stand out in your small garden space. Its vintage-style yet sturdy design features four shelves you can fill with pots of pretty perennials or tasty herbs.

- Measures 100 x 135 x 30cm
- Four shelves
- FSC 100 per cent eucalyptus wood
- 1 year manufacturer's warranty



FLORAL GARDENING KNEELER, £21, FUNKY CHUNKY FURNITURE

Get into even the smallest of bedding spots comfortably by protecting your knees when weeding or planting with this floral garden kneeler. The handle makes it easy to move around and hang up when done. Matching gardening gloves are available too, priced £8.

- Measures 2 x 42 x 25cm
- Floral pattern design
- Cotton with PU coating
- Handle to store
- Comfortable filling



MICROREEL HOSE, £32.99, HOZELock

A simple and lightweight watering system, this hose can be connected to an indoor mixer if you don't have an outdoor garden tap. While it boasts a 10m hose length, there's no need to pull it out fully and you can wind up and store neatly away after use.

- 10m hose
- Lightweight design
- 5 year manufacturer's guarantee
- Fittings included
- Compact design

72-POCKET HANGING PLANT ORGANISER, £10.99, ONBUY

An ideal solution for compact gardens, this nifty 72-pocket hanging organiser for plants can help you to create a vertical garden – simply hang it on the wall using hooks, nails or string before filling each pocket with soil and your choice of plants or herbs.

- 72 pockets
- Made from durable felt
- Easy to hang
- Measures 100 x 100cm
- Available in Green or Black



FOLDABLE POTTING BOX, £7.50, WILKO

Whether you're potting outside or on your kitchen counter, keep things tidy with this convenient potting box – simply unzip the front panel for easy access, sow or repot as needed then fold back up. This design even includes side pockets to keep seed packets to hand.

- Measures 22 x 33 x 70cm
- Folds away flat
- Handy side pockets
- Maximum load capacity 10kg
- Suitable for indoor and outdoor use

BARGAIN BUY