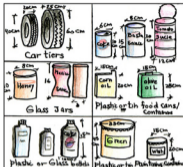


Housing Level: Introduction

Open spaces for growing at the home level are mostly limited or even non-existent especially in the case of existing settlements. This section looks at low-cost growing innovations in situations where the ground is either restricted or unavailable. Growing without access to land is proposed using soil containers made of waste materials, such as tin cans, plastic or glass bottles and jars, packing materials, plastic bags, burlap grain sacks, and so on. Container gardening can also be useful in cases where the available soil is either contaminated or infertile. The techniques do not require any special skills and can be easily adapted at the home level.





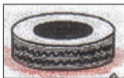
BURLAP GRAIN SACKS:

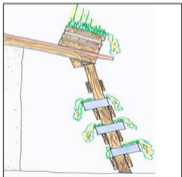
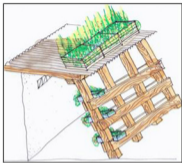
Grains usually come in sacks made of durable materials such as burlap or polypropylene. These sacks can be recycled and used for growing. To begin with, dig some earth from the ground and fill the sack with soil.

Next, tie the sack at its open end firmly with a rope. Fill with soil and water the sack followed by cutting a hole in the middle for growing. Seeds or cuttings can be placed in the medium creating a useful and easily movable plant container.

TIRE CONTAINERS:

Old tires can also be easily used as containers for gardening. The growing surface area of the tire containers can be increased by slicing off the top part of the tire. Fill the remaining part with loose soil and the tire container is ready to use.





TRELLIS AND ROOF-TOP GROWING:

Despite the lack of garden space at the home-level, growing can still take place by analyzing the existing space. For example, growing containers can be placed on roof-tops if the existing roof structures are strong enough. Small pots and containers can also be placed on walls and window ledges. Climbing plants can grow on trellis made simply with ropes and wires. Hanging pots and baskets of plants from the roof can also allow growing at multiple levels. In this way, growing can take place even in the absence of a formal garden space with imagination and creativity using inexpensive materials.

