Vertical Gardening

Grassroots
Gardens
of Buffalo

Vertical Gardening is a space saving gardening technique that provides for easier harvesting, monitoring of pests and disease, reduces wasted space, and increases accessibility for gardens with limited mobility.

There are many types of plants that thrive on vertical gardens, including:

Peas, pole beans, tomatoes, ivy, grapes, climbing roses, squash, melons, cucumbers, pumpkins, climbing hydrangea, even fruit trees!

This guide gives you a brief description of different vertical gardening methods and which plants work best with which method.

Trellis:

Various resources can be recycled into trellises, such as bamboo or lattice.

Great for tacking climbing roses or tomatoes. These are great for plants that have flexible stems but can't climb on their own. Stronger trellises can be used for squash, melons, pumpkins, and other vine stemmed plants.

Set at the north most side of your garden to avoid un-necessary shading the rest of your garden

U-hoop:

Bamboo hoops set a good 8-12 inches into the ground used to train climbing plants. Temporary and not for heavy plants.

U-hoops can be used as a support of non-climbing plants also with some added twine around two offset u-hoops.

* GGB has these for free!

Teepee:

Set three pieces of bamboo into the ground at least 8 inches then tie together with twine. Wrap the twine around the entire teepee for climbing plants such as peas and pole beans.

Great for creating an ivy covered play space for children.

A-Frame:

This frame takes the most construction know-how to build. The frame can be made of recycled wood, bamboo, or pvc pipes. Thatch twine or bamboo to the side of the frame to create an easily climbed surface. (use a stronger thrash for heavier produce)

Squash, melons, peas, and beans all grow well in this model.

Espalier:

A French tree pruning and training method for easier harvest and less space waste. The trees are trained by tacking young limbs to a trellis and pruning limbs growing in the wrong direction.