



the local
carbon
network

Urban Farming - Lesson 1

Understanding what your plants need

Getting Started

When you are getting started it's important to have a basic framework of the knowledge you will need to acquire to be able to compost and grow your own vegetables at home.

So let's think this through a second..



Specific knowledge of the plants

You will need to know in what plants are similar and in what they differ, how much soil they need in width and in depth, whether they want direct light or not, when they sown and when they are harvested, how many kilos of food each plant produces and if they need special tasks performed . You can create a cheat sheet for each vegetable.



Starting your seedlings

Starting from seed can seem like unnecessary work but actually it is one of the most gratifying parts of gardening and also saves you a lot of money.

It is possible to sow seeds at home using household materials and no greenhouse.



Understanding you soil

Your soil has physical, chemical and biological properties that need to be assessed and corrected where necessary. Root nutrition, water and oxygen levels are all dependant on the soil quality. Good soil is a colony of beneficial microorganisms that will do a bunch of the work for you.



Composting

Composting your food and garden scraps is way easier than going out to buy soil and transporting it home.

Also home composting has a significant carbon drawdown impact and if you make it yourself you know exactly what your plants are eating.



Building your pots/beds

Whether you are growing vegetables on your porch, balcony or garden you will need to choose what sort of pots or beds you will be building and take into account cost, features and compatibility with your chosen gardening method.

If aesthetics are important to you, you will have to factor that in too.



Irrigating

Rain aside, it is likely you will need to think of a way of providing additional water to your plants.

There are many useful ways, and no perfect ways, to irrigate your plants.

You will want to take into account flexibility, electricity and water wastage to name a few.



Protecting your plants

Once your plants are growing in lovely pots and beds, and are well nourished and irrigated, your next concern will be to protect them from parasites and predators.

Birds, moles, insects and fungi are regular occurrences that will require a little strategy and management.



Tools and Tasks

In home grown veggie gardens it is quite possible to grow all your vegetables year round for two people in a quarter acre with one person working 1 hour a day.

Knowing your tools and tasks will greatly increase your efficiency so you don't become overwhelmed.

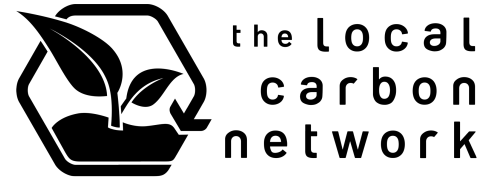


Troubleshooting

Similar plant “symptoms” can have entirely different causes and so it can be useful to develop a methodical approach to troubleshooting as well as a knowledge of basic adequate responses.

You will be able to personalize and refine as you acquire expertise.





The next lessons are designed to address each of these areas of knowledge individually..

If you have any questions please write to us in the Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalCarbonNetwork>

or keep an eye out for our newsletter as we often arrange free online Q&A sessions on ZOOM

or see our FAQ, Articles and videos on the website <https://localcarbon.net/>

Thanks!