

Snack garden on the balcony – big harvest despite little space

Your checklist for getting started.

With the kind support of meine-ernte.de and spoga+gafa.

1. What can I grow?

Herbs: Basil, mint, oregano, lemon balm, rosemary, parsley, thyme, sorrel, chives, ribwort – upgrade your menu all year round and enjoy an extra portion of nutrients.

Vegetables: Chilli, bush tomatoes, snack peppers, radish, salads, peas, beans, Swiss chard, courgettes, onions, carrots, potatoes, pumpkins, mini cucumbers.

Fruit: Strawberries (also hanging), raspberry bushes, red currants, blackberries or blueberries as well as fruit trees like apple or pear trees – also thrive wonderfully in pots on the balcony.

Tip: Use the height: Hanging varieties such as strawberries or herbs in hanging baskets save space and create optical highlights.

2. The right pots

Not all vegetables need a lot of room – here an overview of suitable plant pots and their application.

Types of plant pots and volume recommendations

Type of plant pot	Suitable for	Volume recommendation per plant
Balcony box	Pluck lettuce, radish, herbs, Swiss chard, spinach	5–10 litres
Plant pot	Tomatoes, peppers, mini cucumbers, strawberries, courgettes, cucumbers, pumpkins, green beans, berry bushes, baby carrots	10–20 litres
Raised beds (balcony format)	Pluck lettuce, spinach, carrots, radish, herbs, diverse snack vegetables, courgettes, pumpkins	Total volume at least 40–80 litres

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Type of plant pot	Suitable for	Volume recommendation per plant
Planting bags/ sacks	Potatoes, tomatoes, diverse herbs, lettuce	15–40 litres
Hanging basket	Strawberries, herbs, ranking mini tomatoes	3–7 litres
Vertical plant systems	Herbs, lettuce, snack vegetables	3–5 litres

Tip for raised beds on the balcony:

- Make sure they are stable models with a water reservoir or outlet.
- Balcony raised beds are normally 80–100 cm high – back-friendly and space-saving.
- Bear in mind raised beds are heavy.
- Tip: Use a light substrate blend (i.e. coconut fibre + compost + soil) to reduce the weight.

3. Location: Sun or shade?

A sunny balcony (approx. 6 hours of sun or more a day) is ideal for tomatoes, peppers, courgettes, cucumbers, strawberries.

Grow in the semi-shade (approx. 3 to 6 hours of sun): Herbs like mint, parsley, chives as well as lettuce, Swiss chard, radish, potatoes, beans.

You can grow various mushrooms, Asian vegetables, lamb's lettuce, spinach or parsley **in the shade** (under 3 hours of sun).

4. The basic equipment

Armed with the following basic equipment, self-sufficiency in small spaces is guaranteed to flourish:

- Plant pots: Balcony boxes, pots, tubs or plant bags (with extraction holes)
- Soil: Rich in nutrients, peat-free
- Seeds or young plants: Ideally open pollinating and suitable for growing in pots
- Small watering can: For gentle watering
- Liquid fertiliser (bio/organic): For regular supply of nutrients
- Hand shovel & gardening gloves: For simple replanting & care
- Trellis (optional): For tomatoes, cucumbers or peas
- Coasters or water catching trays: For balcony boxes & pots so no water drips down

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5. Extra tips for a good harvest

Watering: Because the roots of your plants can't grow deep down, it is important to water them regularly. Water them ideally either in the morning or the evening to reduce the evaporation. Make sure that no waterlogging can occur in the pots and that superfluous water can drain off.

The right soil: Use high-quality peat-free potting soil. This contains nutrients that favour optimal growth.

Choice of plants: Begin your snack garden adventure with simple plants like lettuce, radish, herbs or strawberries.

Use the height: Use trellis nets or hanging baskets to save space.

Tip: For further inspiration and detailed instructions visit www.meine-ernte.de

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