

Urban Agriculture

Cheyenne Sharp

Western Dakota Technical Institute, Environmental Engineering Technician

What is Urban Agriculture?

It's the practice of growing and distributing food in, or around Urban Areas.

What is used for Urban Agriculture?

Since space is very limited in cities, Urban Agriculture is usually built on rooftops, in empty lots or parks, backyards, and even balconies. Urban Agriculture can consist of animal husbandry (breeding and raising livestock, such as chickens), beekeeping, aquaculture (fish farming), aquaponics (fish and plants), as well as non-food products like producing seeds and growing flowers.

What are the benefits of Urban Agriculture?

Financial Benefits: Urban Agriculture helps people who struggle with finances have access to fresh and healthy food to feed their families. Urban Agriculture also creates jobs as well as careers.

Environmental Benefits: When more green space (plants, produce) are incorporated into cities, the plants soak up a lot of pollutants, resulting in cleaner air for people to breathe, and it cuts down greenhouse effects. It can also cut down carbon emissions because the food is local and does not require shipping and less driving to grocery stores.

Community Benefits: Urban Agriculture creates a community, where people can learn how to grow food, and it also is a wonderful place for people to have a safe space to go to.

Types of Urban Agriculture:

Community Supported Agriculture:

This is one of the earliest forms of Urban Agriculture. It keeps fresh produce locally; it also allows local food producers to serve urban members who agree to pay a subscription fee for a share of locally grown food. This form of Urban Agriculture is a great example of reducing carbon emissions because it does not need to be shipped, the food stays local.

Urban Farms:

These are small farms that are located within cities that supply local grocery stores, farmers' markets, and the community with produce and meats. This form of Urban Agriculture can help the soil, reduce greenhouse gases, and improve the air.

Community Gardens:

This example of Urban Agriculture is the planting of gardens in neighborhoods, housing complexes, and downtown rooftops. These gardens help clean the air and provide fresh food for those who participate in the cultivation of these gardens.

Indoor Farming:

This form of Urban Agriculture is usually a greenhouse. It helps the farmers and growers control the temperature, fertilization, and other aspects that help the plants and produce grow. Some high-tech indoor farms use artificial temperature control, humidity, light waves, and gases to increase the growth of the plants. Indoor farming also can reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides.

Vertical Farming:

This example of Urban Farming is when the production of the plants grows vertically. This way of production is beneficial because it uses up less space, which is usually better for growing in cities, where space is already limited. Usually, vertical farming is part of skyscrapers or a repurposed warehouse in cities.

Resources:

https://www.onupkeep.com/answers/farming/methods_urban_farming

<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agricultural-crops#UrbanAgriculture>