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## Farms and Community

### Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening



Around 15 percent of the world's food is now grown in urban areas. City and suburban agriculture takes the form of backyard, roof-top and balcony gardening, community gardening in vacant lots and parks, roadside urban fringe agriculture and livestock grazing in open space.

On this page...

#### AFSIC Highlights

**Urban Agriculture: An Abbreviated List of References and Resource Guide 2000**  
*USDA. NAL. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center.*  
Annotated guide to books, articles from periodicals and newsletters, research, studies, reports and other information sources pertaining to agricultural production in and around cities.

**Urban Agriculture: A Literature Review (PDF[2.28 MB])**  
*Tulane University.*

"Urban Agriculture: Differing Phenomena in Differing Regions of the World." A review of the academic literature and research that focus on the global phenomena of crop cultivation, livestock propagation and food product distribution in the urban context.

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#### Information from Other Sources

**Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food**  
*USDA. National Agricultural Library.*

A USDA initiative to promote sustainable local and regional food systems that will support small and mid-sized farms and ranches, strengthen rural communities, promote healthy eating, and protect our natural resources.

#### City Farmer

*Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture.*

Comprehensive compilation of information about urban agriculture. Includes resources from The Urban Agriculture Network (TUAN) as well as reports about rooftop gardening, micro-livestock, small-scale aquaculture, vermicomposting and more.

**Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the United States: Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe**

*Community Food Security Coalition. Urban Agriculture Committee.*

Overview of the many types of urban agriculture in the United States and their impact on community food security, challenges facing urban agriculture and key policy changes that can further expand the effectiveness of urban agriculture. A list of contacts and resources is included.

#### Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Forestry

*Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF).*  
Global resource center initiated by the international Support

- Small Farms
- Beginning/New Farmers
- Farmland Preservation
- Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening
- Grants and Loans for Farmers
- Women and Minorities in Agriculture
- Community Food Systems and Civic Agriculture

To view PDF files you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer.

To view Flash files you must have Macromedia Flash Player installed on your computer.

Group on Urban Agriculture. Site includes a comprehensive bibliography, contacts and experts, links, publications, *UA Magazine* and a discussion group.

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**Food for the Cities**

*United Nations. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).* International perspectives on urban food security and nutrition, urban and periurban food production and land tenure, food marketing and distribution and more.

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**Urban/ Peri-urban Agriculture**

*United Nations. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Crop and Grassland Service.*

FAO development programs and policy studies focused on urban agriculture including an issues paper based on *Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture*, a report to the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), 1999.

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**American Community Gardening Association**

*American Community Gardening Association.* Fact sheets, contacts, links, reports and a discussion group that assist in starting, finding and researching community gardens.

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**Community Garden Start-Up Guide**

*University of California. Cooperative Extension Service. Los Angeles County.*

Guide to help neighborhood groups and organizations along the path to starting and sustaining a community garden.

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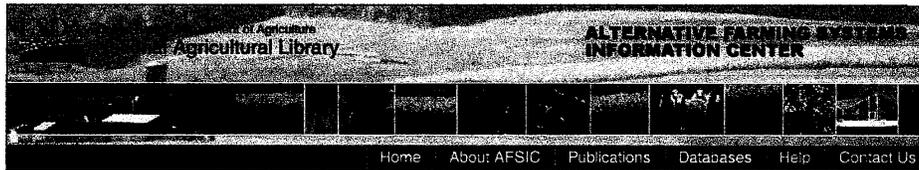
**Urban Soil Issues**

*USDA. Natural Resources Conservation Service.* Surveys, links and guides including the *Urban Soil Primer* - an introduction to urban soils for homeowners and renters, local planning boards, property managers, students and educators.

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## Farms and Community

### Grants and Loans for Farmers



Although limited, financial support for small farms and farm-related businesses is available from a variety of Federal, state and local agencies and from non-governmental organizations. Start your search here.

**Where Can I Find Agricultural Funding Resources?**  
*USDA, NAL, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center.* Describes programs and resource guides that serve as starting points for identifying funding opportunities.

**Small Farm Funding Resources**  
*USDA, NAL, Rural Information Center.* Find tools to develop a business plan, write a grant proposal, locate funding and assistance programs and more.

**Funding Opportunities**  
*National Center for Appropriate Technology, ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.* A database of many types of funding programs and sources focused on sustainable and alternative agricultural practices and research. Browse the list or search by keyword.

**Farm Loan Programs**  
*USDA, Farm Service Agency.* "ESA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender." Includes link to the Service Center Locator.

**Rural Development: About Us**  
*USDA, Rural Development.* USDA's Rural Development helps rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain financial and technical assistance. Site includes information about loans and grants, notices about available funds and a database of homes for sale.

**Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education: For Farmers and Ranchers**  
*USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).* Farmers and ranchers can apply for SARE research grants that typically run between \$500 and \$15,000.

- Small Farms
- Beginning/New Farmers
- Farmland Preservation
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- Grants and Loans for Farmers**
- Women and Minorities in Agriculture
- Community Food Systems and Civic Agriculture

- Rural Information Center: Funding Resources
- Risk Management Agency (USDA)

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