

## The Rise of Urban Gardening

With the rapid urbanization of our world, green spaces within cities have become more vital than ever. Urban gardening, sometimes called urban agriculture, is the practice of cultivating plants within an urban environment. This can be done on rooftops, balconies, and even in small plots of land within the city.

**Paragraph A** Urban gardening not only provides a source of fresh produce but also helps combat the "heat island" effect seen in many cities. This phenomenon occurs when urban areas experience much warmer temperatures than their rural surroundings, largely due to human activities and the vast expanses of concrete and asphalt.

**Paragraph B** Beyond the environmental benefits, urban gardening offers numerous social advantages. Community gardens can act as gathering places, fostering social ties and reducing feelings of isolation among city dwellers.

**Paragraph C** There are, however, challenges to urban gardening. Space is often limited, and urban soil can be contaminated with pollutants. Moreover, in many cities, there are legal restrictions on where and how one can garden.

**Paragraph D** Despite the obstacles, the trend of urban gardening is on the rise. With advancements in hydroponics and vertical farming, even the densest of cities can become a green oasis.

### Exercise: Yes/No/Not Given

Answer the following statements based on the reading passage:

1. Urban gardening can take place on structures like rooftops and balconies.

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2. The "heat island" effect is solely due to the lack of green spaces in cities.

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3. Urban gardening primarily focuses on the cultivation of flowers.

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4. Community gardens can help increase social interaction among residents.

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5. All urban soils are ideal for gardening.

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