USDA United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

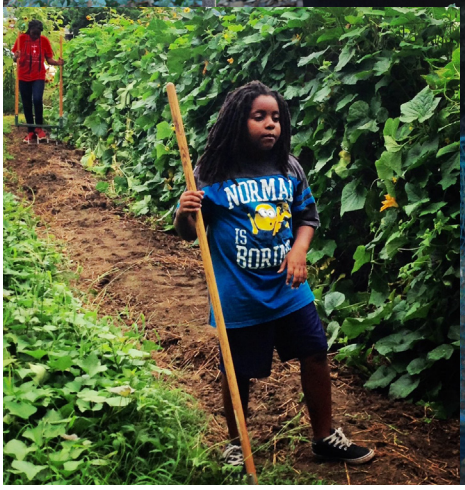
Who We Are

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers care for the natural resources on their land – soil, water, air, plant and animals.

How We Help Urban Farmers

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to growers in:

- **Soil Health** - As experts in soil health, NRCS conservationists can advise urban growers on things like what cover crops to grow, using farmers' soil tests and our soil surveys.
- **Irrigation and Water Conservation** - We can help urban growers conserve water, by assisting with things like drip irrigation.
- **Weeds and Pests** - We can help with pest and weed management by planting buffers for beneficial insects, through mulching, using cover crops and various other means.
- **High Tunnels** – NRCS can provide financial assistance for high tunnels, used to extend the growing season and to protect plants from harsh weather, air pollution and pests. By making local produce available for more months in the year, fewer resources are used to transport food to plates.



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Why Urban Farming?

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities, growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but increasing opportunity and knowledge and improving the beauty of their neighborhoods. Through community gardens, produce is being grown and donated to those who need it and children and adults are learning about agriculture first-hand. Farmer's markets are offering easy-access to fresh foods in areas where grocery stores are miles away and are providing new income streams for residents.

NRCS serves all agriculture – large to small, conventional to organic, rural to urban. As American agriculture continues to grow in new directions, NRCS conservation assistance is growing along with it. By bringing cultivation and opportunity to both rural and urban areas, we address many needs -- Restoring the health of the soil. Restoring the health of people.

Get Started

Starting an urban farm comes with a unique set of challenges and opportunities. NRCS can help with the challenges of conservation, and support urban farmers in their efforts to achieve local, healthy, sustainable food for their communities. Start by contacting your local NRCS Service Center, at **https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator**.

NRCS. Helping People Help the Land... Even in the City.

www.nrcs.usda.gov

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