

GARDENING

One can grow vegetables in their gardens



Sarah Iga in her nursery bed. She grows vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes among others



A worker at Iga's farm. Photos by Umar Nsubuga

Colour and gardening work together

BY SIMON SINGA

A little science goes a long way when it comes to colour. Professional designers use the colour wheel to show the relationships between different colours which work together and which clash, which combinations are restful and stimulating. Different colours can affect our impressions of space.

In areas where planting opportunities are limited, especially near the house, adding colour by painting or staining walls and fences can create a lively atmosphere. Think about the mood or style you want to evoke and how elements apart from your walls (eg. Doors, furniture, and structures such as pergolas) can be united using a limited color palette.

In sunny areas, clear oranges, reds, yellows work well but in cooler regions and in shade, the light is blue-toned, so blue-reds like raspberry or maroon as well as burnt orange shades and rich blues glow effectively.

Like I have said before, plants alone will not make a great garden but "a combination of colour and Design" will do!

Is a small backyard garden profitable?

BY UMAR NSUBUGA

Sarah Iga has productively utilised her small piece of land in order to make money out of it.

She grows tomatoes, cabbage, egg plant, green pepper, carrots, onions, garlic, bitter berries (*entula*), the list is endless, on barely a 50x50ft plot. This mother of four is sometimes supplies the market.

She says about four years ago, she realised some space was lying idle in her backyard. The stay-at-home mum decided to venture into vegetable growing, a decision she didn't regret.

Iga says her garden has helped the family to save money since they always have a supply of fresh vegetables. They also have a variety to pick from without any limitations.

Iga's children participate

During seasons of surplus, she supplies to the local market and supermarkets which also brings in some income for the family.

Being a good neighbour, she also shares some of her harvest with the neighbours.

Meanwhile, Joseph Bukenya a resident of Kabwomero in Luwero, also takes time, particularly on Sundays, to do some gardening in his backyard.

His is a rather smaller space that



Joseph Bukenya in his tomato greenhouse

could pass for a corridor between two walls. He divided the space into four partitions in which he plants different vegetables every season. And for the six years he has done this, Bukenya

says it has paid off. His home never runs out of fresh vegetables.

Even during the dry season, he says there can still be something for the day. "I don't remember when I



Sarah Iga's cauliflower

GARDENING TIPS

- Know what to plant. It is very important to have a variety in your small garden so as to maximise value. Partitioning your small space would go a long way to enable you achieve this.
- Engage the family especially children in the process. You could also apportion them a small space where they can have their 'practicals'.
- Take it one step at a time. Let it not take a toll on your energy.

last bought tomatoes or greens from the market. They are always in my small garden," Bukenya says.

Maintaining a backyard garden
A backyard garden requires some attention like weeding, pruning and watering, especially in the dry season.

Applying manure is also important for healthy growth of fruit and vegetables. They mostly use coffee husks, saw dust and chicken droppings.

However, for vegetable gardens, pesticides and herbicides are not recommended, unless they are used with caution because they tend to pose health threats.