Rooftop & Deck Garden Tips
Use this guide to find out what the options and limitations are for your space

Design Constraints:

1. Plant height:
Be sure to check with your building for any plant or material restrictions. Most buildings have a maximum plant height that limits your selection of plant materials.

2. Irrigation:
Irrigating your rooftop can be difficult if you have no water source in the outdoor area. The best way to irrigate your garden would be to install or build a water storage system or set up an automatic drip irrigation system.

3. Weight:
Keep in mind that you need to use lightweight planting materials and containers for your rooftop garden. Use lightweight materials from the floor to the pots, which should be filled with a lightweight planting mix that will not hold an excessive amount of water.

4. Wind:
Everything on your rooftop garden should be secured properly in order to endure heavy winds. Stay away from lightweight materials that may cause damage like umbrellas and build a trellis or pergola that has been approved by an engineer. Lattice, trellis', pergolas, and walls can serve as wind breaks and block a good amount of gusty winds.

Successful Design:

Plants for Decks and Rooftop Gardens
- rock rose
- potentillas
- lavender
- senecio sp.
- shasta daisy
- escallonia
- sedum
- pinus sp.
- artemisia
- convolvulus
- phormium
- olea montra
- fountain grass
- nandina
- daylily
- cypress sp.

*Select species that stay under 6’ to abide by most building restrictions

Vegetables for your Rooftop
- chives
- fava beans
- carrots
- rutabaga
- chives
- spinach
- broccoli
- cabbage
- kale
- swiss chard
- radish
- garlic
- cauliflower

Common Lightweight Container Materials
- aluminum
- wood
- fiberglass, plastic, and foam

Common Paving
- tile
- porcelain
- granite
- slate
- sandstone
- wood
- rubber