

Feeding the City– Food production on the fringe and within the urban area

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Food is grown in and around our cities. Urban agriculture includes growing food on the fringe as well as within the limits of the urban areas.

It takes many forms ranging from community gardens and edible streetscapes in the urban area to commercial vegetable farming on the peri-urban fringe of the city. It can also have a significant social impact by helping communities come together as well as youth and healthy eating programs.

The fringe of Australia's Metropolitan areas are one the food bowls. The Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane fringe each produces \$1 billion of agricultural produce each year and also produce two-thirds of the perishable vegetables. It has a good climate and is close to the main population centre. However the landscape is made up of mostly rural residential development which leads to many problems that need to be addressed in a multifaceted way to ensure that we have a sustainable future and a secure food supply. This is an issue that is facing the fringe of all metropolitan areas around the Country.

This presentation will outline these various food production areas with reference to case studies and photos from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America. A lot of the material has been gathered from a recent study trip to Canada, USA and UK. It will propose that the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables for the cities comes from the urban fringe as well as to some extent from within the urban boundaries.