

Turn your garden into a skyscraper

A Norwich garden centre has come up with an ingenious way to grow hundreds of plants in a small space – by building straight upwards like a skyscraper.

The Urban Jungle Nursery in Costessey has developed what it claims is the first “vertical garden” in Norfolk.

These upright gardens, pioneered by French gardener Patrick Blanc and currently wowing crowds at high profile gardening shows around the world, are designed to save space and hide ugly walls.

But traditionally the complex, expensive systems, can cost a small fortune to install.

In contrast, the system developed in Norwich uses simple garden materials like wood batons and weed-suppressing mats to achieve the same effect for a fraction of the cost.

Professional installations can cost around £1,000 per square metre, but it is thought that a homemade version like this could be made for as little as £40.

Elizabeth Browne, owner of the nursery, said: “Ours is unbelievably simple and could easily be constructed by an amateur gardener. Our customers are loving it so far.”

She said that senior nurseryman Jamie Spooner had been the brains behind the innovation and that amateur gardeners could easily copy the design themselves, although they will be building them for interested customers.

→ For more information call 01603 744997 or visit www.urbanjungle.uk.com

