A balcony garden and a neighborhood vandal

A story of how a hobby was had and a nemesis was made

UBC CSGSA UDLS Talk
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How I got into balcony gardening
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Planning: Choose your plants
Planning: Know their seasonality

[Vegetable Planting Chart]

https://www.westcoastseeds.com/pages/regional-planting-charts
Planning: Know their spatial needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shallow Rooting 12&quot; - 18&quot;</th>
<th>Medium Rooting 18&quot; - 24&quot;</th>
<th>Deep Rooting 24&quot; - 36&quot;+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arugula</td>
<td>Beans, dry</td>
<td>Artichokes</td>
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<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Beans, pole</td>
<td>Asparagus</td>
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<td>Brussels sprouts</td>
<td>Beans, snap</td>
<td>Beans, lima</td>
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<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>Beets</td>
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<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>Canteloupe</td>
<td>Parsnips</td>
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<td>Celery</td>
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<td>Pumpkins</td>
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<td>Chinese cabbage</td>
<td>Chard</td>
<td>Rhubarb</td>
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<td>Corn</td>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>Squash, winter</td>
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<td>Endive</td>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>Sweet potatoes</td>
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<td>Kohlrabi, Bok Choy</td>
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<td>Watermelon</td>
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<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>Peppers</td>
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<td>Onions, Leeks, Chives</td>
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<td>Potatoes</td>
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<td>Strawberries</td>
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Planning: Know their spatial needs

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<th>Sprawling</th>
<th>Vertical</th>
<th>Invasive</th>
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Horizontal
- Compact: Chives, Carrots, Radishes, Corn Salad
- Medium: Tomatoes, Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Broccoli, Parsley, Beans, Lemon Balm, Basil, Oregano
- Large: Potatoes, Parsnip, Some Kales, Cabbage, Fennel/Dill, Rhubarb, Sage, Lavender, Rosemary
- Sprawling: Squash, Cucumbers, Rhubarb

Vertical
- Tall: Garlic, Leeks, Corn, Peas, Some Beans, Fennel/Dill, Sunflower
- Climbing: Peas, Beans, Cucumber, Squash, Tomatoes
- Invasive: Mint, Oregano
Planning: Know your light

From West Coast Seeds Gardening Basics
My balcony garden
My balcony garden

Mint
Arugula
My balcony garden

Cherry tomatoes
My balcony garden

Cilantro
Mint
Growing cherry tomatoes: from seeds to fruits
March 25th: Bought 25 seeds
April 8th: First sprouting!
April 9th: More spouting!
April 13th: All seeds sprouted!
April 13th: Some got the first *true leaf*!
April 18th: First un-natural selection and repotting!
April 23rd: They love the sun!
May 3rd: They love the sun!
May 20th:
It was time to move out!
~May 21st: First day out! Will still go back in for the night
May 25th: Pole upgrade and spending all night out too
May 25th: First flowers showing!
May 30th: First flower opening!
June 6th: First fruit!
June 16th:
Two happy sisters!
June 24th:
Tomato vines!
July 24th: First tomato harvest
July 29th: They can be teenie tiny!
Aug 15th: Harvest!
Aug 21st: Harvest!
Aug 30th: Harvest!
BUT, lurking in the shadows there was a grave danger!
July 18th: First spotting of the villain!
"Squirrels are attracted to bare soil, where they look for edible roots, nuts, and seeds, and bury treats they’ve found for later. Keeping bare soil covered with plants or mulch will prevent them from being attracted to the area."
BUT then, unbeknownst to us, he was determined to strike again!!!
Since then

- The squirrel woke Pedro up from a nap by literally jumping from the bedroom window on him!
- He walked into the living room and fearlessly stared Pedro in the eyes while he was chilling on the sofa!
- Woke us up numerous times by climbing up our building wall!!!
We are under attack by squirrels

One squirrel, I think
2. Get a dog. Most dogs love to chase squirrels. Put them on squirrel patrol and let them scare the squirrels away.

10. Give them a drink. If squirrels are munching on your tomatoes or other juicy fruits or vegetables, they may just be thirsty. Theresa Rooney, author of *The Guide to Humane Critter Control*, says, “During the growing season, provide the squirrels with a dish of fresh water...and the squirrels will probably leave those tomatoes for you to harvest.”
Pedro Pessoa
I did some detective work today 2:49 p.m.

I saw the squirrel outside our building, so I followed it 2:50 p.m.

First it climbed up and entered an apartment in the second floor through the living room window 2:51 p.m.
Climbing and entering is a felony.

It stayed inside for 10 mins!
10. **Give them a drink.** If squirrels are munching on your tomatoes or other juicy fruits or vegetables, they may just be thirsty.
In conclusion…