



Food on the roof

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GREEN ROOF BEETROOT

I wanted to show you an example of some food I have been growing on the roof of my chook house. This beetroot was grown in a 75mm media profile using only coconut fibre. Slow release fertiliser and sub surface irrigation have been incorporated as part of the installation. The smaller beetroots were grown in the garden and granted they may not have received the same amount of moisture it goes to show that there is a real opportunity to grow food on the rooftops in our towns and cities.

I have had great success growing all herbs, spring onions, peas, lettuce and spinach. The shallow profile shows that food can be grown on existing buildings with retrofits, on shed roofs, dog houses or any other such roof.

I believe for rooftop installations where food is being grown, a mineral media is not essential as changing the growing media on a 2-5 year basis is easily done. This can mean that lighter weight organic media can be used thereby creating a much larger scope for green roof installations.

