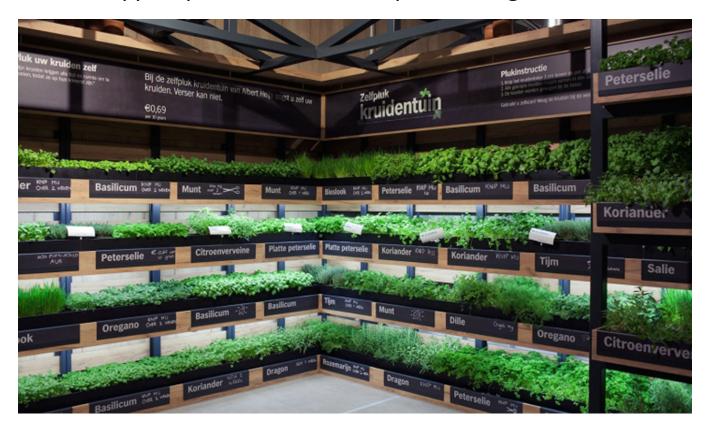


Dutch shoppers pick own herbs in supermarket garden



The Netherlands' award-winning <u>Albert Heijn</u> supermarket chain recently introduced a new service for its customers – pick-your-own herb gardens. Developed with design agency studiomfd, the Help Yourself Herb Garden lets customers pick exactly what they need, from a full plant to a few sprigs. Herbs are brought in-store as soon as they are fully-grown and ready to be harvested.

The store also provides a sink for shoppers to wash their hands in after gathering the herbs. Urban farming and gardening projects are finding increasingly clever ways to use formerly disused spaces. Recent Springspottings include a Canadian foodbank that set up <u>an aquaponics farm</u> to help fulfill the local need for fresh produce, and <u>a floating farm</u> in Rotterdam's harbor that is powered by the manure of the animals being raised there.

How else could food deserts be improved through local urban garden or farm projects?

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