

Growing vegetables in abandoned suitcases

Vocabulary Match

local ● abandoned ● planters ● produce ● surprised ● workshops ●

● classes ● food ● left behind ● pots ● shocked ● nearby

Article

What can you do with a suitcase that nobody wants? One hotel in Tokyo has found an unusual answer: grow vegetables in it! Hotel Niwa Tokyo uses some abandoned suitcases as planters in its rooftop garden. About 10 suitcases are left at the hotel each month, and guests have a limited time to collect them. If nobody comes back for them, some are turned into planters.

The hotel now grows about 40 kinds of vegetables and herbs, and some of the fresh produce is served in its restaurants. Guests are often surprised to learn where their food comes from. The hotel is also thinking about holding workshops to teach local students how to turn old suitcases into useful planters.

Quiz

1. What does Hotel Niwa Tokyo do with abandoned suitcases?
2. How many suitcases are left at the hotel each month?
3. What kinds of plants does the hotel grow?
4. What is the hotel thinking about doing for local students?

Conversation

A: Did you see those suitcases on the roof?
 B: Yes! They are growing vegetables! How cool is that?
 A: I can't believe it! I thought they were just trash.
 B: Me too! I want to eat a salad from a suitcase!
 A: Let's ask if we can help with the garden!
 B: Great idea! We can be suitcase gardeners!

Discussion

1. Would you eat vegetables grown in an old suitcase? Why or why not?
2. What other old things could be used to grow vegetables?
3. Do you enjoy gardening? If so, what do you like to grow?
4. What old thing could you use in a different way?