



CITY OF
TUCSON

PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
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Urban Agriculture Reference Sheet

Urban agriculture is the practice of producing food locally by cultivating, processing, distributing, selling, or gleaned of agricultural products and other related activities in the City of Tucson. It may involve horticulture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry, but should not cause a nuisance. Farmers' markets, community gardens, and urban farms are ways to accommodate local food production, security, and distribution.

CITY OF TUCSON GUIDELINES

- Chapter 4 of the City Code, Animals and Fowl, addresses animal husbandry, pens, corrals, and cruelty and neglect concerns
- Chapter 16 of the City Code, the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance (NPO), addresses cleanliness, nuisance standards, signs, and sales
- Animal Control: PDSD works with TPD and Pima Animal Control. Report instances of animal neglect or cruelty at (520) 724-5900

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE (UDC) ZONING REGULATIONS

- 3.3 Zoning Compliance Review – allows modification to animal numbers and accessory building setbacks
- 4.7 Zones Purpose – clarifies urban agriculture exists in all zones
- 4.8 Use Tables – lists the key urban agriculture principal uses
- 4.9 Use Specific Standards – lists the specific standards for permitted urban agriculture uses for animal numbers and accessory buildings
- 7.4 & 7.6 Parking & Landscaping – sets up parking and landscaping standards for urban agriculture uses
- 11.3 Definitions – creates new definitions related to urban agriculture uses and issue

COMPOSTING

May be practiced on land or in a community garden. However, the composting area or pile must be contained and maintained so as not to produce offensive odors or attract flies or vermin. All reasonable efforts must be made to ensure that this area is not visible from abutting properties or streets. Waste: Section 4-28 of Animals and Fowl and Section 16-13 of Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

Miniature goats, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and other similar animals are considered food-producing animals. The keeping of food-producing animals is permitted as an accessory in any zone, in accordance with Section 6.6.5.F, Keeping of Food-Producing Animals.

Roosters are not allowed within the city limits. Call TDP for more information.



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WHAT IS AN “ANIMAL UNIT?”

Two Animal Units are given for each 1,000 square feet of lot size with an overall maximum cap. The five assigned Animal Units are:

- Chickens = 1 Unit
- Ducks = 2 Units
- Turkeys and Geese = 4 Units
- Miniature Goats = 5 units

The number of Animal Units you may have varies depended on the size of your parcel of record. For instance, if you have a 8,000 square foot lot, you can have 16 Animal Units. More information can be found on the [Pima County Assessor's website](#).

PEN AND SHELTER SETBACKS

- For food-producing animals only, small pens (six feet in height and no more than 16 square feet) are allowed at the property line and adjacent to the right of way
- All pens must be at least 20 feet from an adjacent property's single-family dwelling
- Larger lots of 36,000 square feet must have a 20-foot setback
- Large animal pens must meet a typical accessory structure setback equal to two-thirds of the height of the pen or be set back not less than six feet

