

Build a Greenhouse

Extend the Life of Your Growing Season

Choose the Right Location: Select a sunny and level location for your greenhouse, with good exposure to the sun throughout the day.

Greenhouse Types: Consider different greenhouse types, such as hoop houses, traditional glass structures, or DIY designs based on your needs and budget.

Foundation: Build a solid foundation, either with concrete, gravel, or treated wood, to provide stability and drainage.

Frame Material: Select a durable frame material like galvanized steel, PVC, or wood for longevity and strength.

Glazing Options: Choose the appropriate glazing material, such as polycarbonate panels, polyethylene film, or glass, depending on your climate and insulation needs.

Proper Ventilation: Install ventilation systems like roof vents, louvers, or fans to regulate temperature and humidity.

Shade Cloth: Use shade cloth during hot months to prevent overheating and sunburn on plants.

Heating Options: Consider heating options like electric heaters, propane, or even a wood stove for winter growing.

Insulation: Insulate the greenhouse walls and floor to retain heat during colder seasons.

Automated Systems: Implement automated systems for temperature, humidity, and irrigation control.

Tables and Benches: Include tables and benches for efficient use of space and easy access to plants.

Potting Bench: Set up a potting bench with tools and supplies for seed starting and transplanting.

Drip Irrigation: Install a drip irrigation system to provide consistent and efficient watering.

Rainwater Collection: Consider collecting rainwater for irrigation to reduce water costs.

Vertical Growing: Use vertical shelving or trellises to maximize growing space.

Pest Control: Install screens or use organic pest control methods to keep unwanted insects out.

Soil Beds: Build raised beds or containers for soil-based growing inside the greenhouse.

Crop Rotation: Plan for crop rotation to prevent soil depletion and disease buildup.

Supplemental Lighting: Add supplemental lighting like LED grow lights for extended daylight hours in winter.

Shelving Organization: Organize shelves and racks for optimal plant arrangement and access.

Monitor Temperature: Use digital thermometers to monitor temperature variations inside the greenhouse.

Proper Shelving Height: Ensure shelves are at a comfortable height for tending to plants.

Sturdy Shelving: Use sturdy, rust-resistant shelves to support the weight of plants and pots.

Cooling Systems: Install cooling systems like shade cloth, exhaust fans, or misting systems for summer heat.

Polycarbonate Benefits: If using polycarbonate panels, benefit from their insulation properties and UV resistance.

Glass Benefits: If using glass, enjoy durability and enhanced light transmission but consider insulation needs.

Of course, many of these options will be of no use if there is no electricity so consider alternatives for these if the time comes to need them.