

Plant Growing Structures: Knowing More About Greenhouses, Hotbeds, and Cold Frames



Plant Growing Structures - Knowing More about Green Houses, Hotbeds, and Cold Frames (Gardening Series

Book 29) by John Davidson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Growing plants in a controlled environment can be a great way to extend the growing season and protect plants from harsh weather conditions. There are a variety of plant growing structures that can be used to create a favorable environment for plants, including greenhouses, hotbeds, and cold frames.

Greenhouses

Greenhouses are enclosed structures that are used to grow plants in a controlled environment. Greenhouses can be made from a variety of materials, including glass, plastic, and polycarbonate. They are typically heated and ventilated to maintain a specific temperature and humidity level.

Greenhouses are ideal for growing plants that are not suited to outdoor conditions, such as tropical plants or plants that require a long growing season. Greenhouses can also be used to start seedlings and to overwinter plants.

There are a variety of different types of greenhouses, including:

- **Lean-to greenhouses** are attached to a building, which provides them with insulation and support.
- **Freestanding greenhouses** are not attached to a building, and are typically larger than lean-to greenhouses.
- **Hobby greenhouses** are small greenhouses that are designed for home gardeners.
- **Commercial greenhouses** are large greenhouses that are used to grow plants for sale.

Hotbeds

Hotbeds are enclosed structures that are used to grow plants in a warm environment. Hotbeds are typically made from wood or concrete, and are heated by manure or other organic materials. The heat from the manure helps to keep the soil in the hotbed warm, which is ideal for starting seeds and growing plants that require a warm environment.

Hotbeds are typically used in the spring to start seedlings, and in the fall to extend the growing season for plants that are not suited to cold weather.

Cold Frames

Cold frames are enclosed structures that are used to protect plants from cold weather. Cold frames are typically made from wood or glass, and are placed over plants to protect them from frost and wind.

Cold frames are ideal for growing plants that are hardy but need protection from the elements, such as vegetables and herbs. Cold frames can also be used to start seedlings in the early spring.

Choosing the Right Plant Growing Structure

The type of plant growing structure that you choose will depend on the plants you are growing and your budget. If you are growing plants that require a warm environment, such as tropical plants, then you will need a greenhouse. If you are growing plants that are hardy but need protection from the elements, then you can use a cold frame.

The size of the plant growing structure you need will also depend on the number of plants you are growing. If you are only growing a few plants, then a small hobby greenhouse or cold frame will be sufficient. If you are growing a large number of plants, then you will need a larger commercial greenhouse.

Building a Plant Growing Structure

If you are handy, you can build your own plant growing structure. There are a variety of plans available online and in books. However, if you are not comfortable building your own structure, you can Free Download one from a garden center or online retailer.

When building a plant growing structure, it is important to consider the following factors:

- **Location:** The location of your plant growing structure will affect the amount of sunlight and heat that it receives. Choose a location that is sheltered from the wind and has good drainage.
- **Size:** The size of your plant growing structure will depend on the number of plants you are growing. Make sure to choose a structure that is large enough to accommodate your plants.
- **Materials:** The materials you use to build your plant growing structure will affect its durability and cost. Glass greenhouses are more expensive than plastic greenhouses, but they are also more durable.

Maintaining a Plant Growing Structure

Once you have built your plant growing structure, it is important to maintain it regularly. This includes cleaning the structure, watering the plants, and checking for pests and diseases.

By following these tips, you can create a favorable environment for your plants and enjoy the benefits of growing your own food and flowers.

Image Gallery





A hotbed filled with seedlings.



Plant growing structures are a great way to extend the growing season and protect plants from harsh weather conditions. There are a variety of different types of plant growing structures available, so you can choose the one that is best suited to your needs. By following the tips in this article, you can create a favorable environment for your plants and enjoy the benefits of growing your own food and flowers.



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