

Greenhouses Are For Everyone

Building and enjoying a greenhouse isn't a luxury for the idle rich, but an adventure in living available to homeowners, with only slight

budget stretching. A well-built wood greenhouse, properly cared for, will serve a lifetime.

There are several styles and

variations, including even-span attached or free-standing, breezeway, and lean-to. Some greenhouses are combined with bath houses or pavilions for out-door living areas.

A connected greenhouse often becomes the most popular room in a house.

Adjoining a family or living room through sliding glass doors, it can be a favorite spot to enjoy flowers and plants as well as an unusual place for entertaining or just relaxing while soaking up the sun.

A connected greenhouse with even spans of glass on

both sides of the center beam offers the best growing conditions, but frequently a lean-to fits better because of limited space or house style.

THE LEAN-TO, located on a wall of the house or garage, so that south, east and west rays of the sun are not cut off, is built of 4x4 and 2x4-inch western wood framing lumber—cedar, fir or pine—treated with a preservative because of constant humid conditions.

Lower portions of the walls are of tongue and groove wood siding stained or painted to complement the house exterior.

For greenhouse glazing, glass is always good, but plastic panels give light diffusion for plant growth, are easy to work with and hard to break.

Hinged basement window sash can be used at the ends to assure good ventilation, important along with a heating unit and water supply. An outside door must be provided to move materials in and out.

PLANT benches should be from 24 to 30 inches high, depending on height of plants

grown and of the person tending them.

They're built of 1x6-inch western wood boards, with slight spacing for drainage, and 2x4-inch legs and cross braces. Benches ordinarily should be limited to three feet wide.

Space under benches can be used for storage of extra pots, flats and potting-soil blends. When cabinets or work benches must be added to a greenhouse, they should be placed in the northwest corner to avoid shading any areas from the sun.

Pests Attack Dried Flower Arrangements

EAST LANSING
Dried flower arrangements are not immune to pest damage, according to Richard Sauer, Michigan State University entomologist.

One pest of dried arrangements is the cigarette beetle. This is a small, oval, brown beetle with a humped appearance. The beetles are small enough to escape detection until their feeding attracts attention. Dropped petals and small black fecal pellets are telltale signs.

You can control these pests in dried flower arrangements without further damage to the flower, Sauer explains. Enclose the arrangement in a box with a close fitting lid or in a plastic bag. Put one-fourth of a DVP or Vapona fly strip in with the arrangement. Seal the box or bag and leave the arrangement for one week. This should kill both the adults and larvae.

Adds Interest

Framing lumber left exposed adds design interest to a house.

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Prevent Spring Headaches Tips For Winter Storage

LEAN-TO GREENHOUSE adjacent to house is most economical type to build, adds interest to adjoining room through sliding glass doors. Framing is 4x4 and 2x4-inch western wood, treated with preservative due to constant humidity. Siding is tongue and groove cedar, fir or pine. Hinged end windows give ventilation.

EAST LANSING
Spring headaches caused by lawn mowers that refuse to start can be prevented by spending the few minutes needed to prepare small engines for winter storage, says a Michigan State University agricultural engineer.

Steve Bolen offers the following hints for proper winter storage of lawn mowers and other power garden equipment:

Change the oil before storing, because old oil doesn't provide good storage protection. Oil additives wear out, and the corrosion and rust inhibitors may no longer do their job if the oil is very old.

Immediately before draining the oil, run the engine for a few minutes. This warms the oil so that it flows better, and mixes any dirt and sludge from the bottom of the crankcase into the oil - a cleaner engine is the end result.

Filling the crankcase with new oil provides the final touch. Use a good quality oil. For best results check the owner's manual and use one of the oils recommended by the engine manufacturer.

THE FUEL system is the place where most small engine spring starting problems are caused. If fuel is left in the tank during winter storage, gum and varnish deposits can form, clogging the fuel lines and the carburetor.

This problem can be prevented in three different ways.

The best bet is to add a fuel stabilizer to the gasoline just before storage. This prevents the partial breakdown of the fuel that results in gum and varnish. Fuel stabilizers are available at most hardware stores and equipment dealers.

The next alternative is to drain the fuel tank and then run the engine until it stops. This means that there isn't any fuel in the system, at all when the engine goes into storage.

Third, by keeping the tank completely full of fuel during storage, the chances that the damaging deposits will form is reduced, since the lack of oxygen will slow the production of gum and varnish.

PULL THE SPARK plug

and squirt about a teaspoon of oil into the combustion chamber. Then crank the starter several times. This puts a coat of oil on the internal engine surfaces and helps to prevent corrosion in the upper cylinder area.

While the spark plug is removed, check it for deposits. Now is a good time to clean or replace it - you'll save time in the spring. Plugs can be cleaned by scraping off the deposits with a pocket knife. Use a file on the center electrode to smooth and flatten its surface. This results in a hotter spark and less chance of misfires.

After cleaning, adjust the gap between the electrodes according to the owner's manual and then replace the plug and tighten it properly. Visually check the cooling fins on the outside of the engine. Make sure that they aren't clogged with dust, grass clippings, leaves, etc.

IF YOUR mower has an electric starter, the battery should get some special attention during winter storage.

Batteries discharge gradually during storage, and may become susceptible to freezing. So, if the mower will be stored where temperatures go below 32 degrees, the battery should be removed and stored separately where temperatures are cool, but not below freezing.

Compost Pile Construction In Bulletin

Persons interested in environmental quality can get advice on how to construct a proper compost pile in a new bulletin published by the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service.

Entitled "Compost Will Improve the Environment," extension bulletin E-727 can be obtained at your local county extension office or by writing to the Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.



RECREATION ROOM has a mini-bar which the homeowner built when modernizing his basement. He used the same wall paneling, Masonite Jamestown Gold, to finish the bar. The social conversation area at right is distinguished by the colorful plaid wall with the yellow repeated in the shag carpeting on the white, brick-patterned floor tile.

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